



World War I

Lesson 11

"Why America Entered the War" Paragraphs

Directions: Use the Why America Entered the War Learning Tree and paragraphs 5-19 of "World War I" lesson to write three paragraphs addressing the following:

1. Explain the policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.
2. Describe the sinking of the *Lusitania* and its effect on American attitudes to the war.
3. Describe the Zimmermann Telegram and its impact on America's entry into the war.

Sample Paragraphs:

The goal of Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare was to sink all ships sailing to England regardless of their flag. Its purpose was to starve England into submission, since the British were blockading German ports for the same reason.

This policy backfired in 1915 when the Germans sank the passenger ship *Lusitania* off the coast of Ireland, drowning 114 Americans. What made the attack especially sinister was the warning the German Embassy issued to passengers of the ship before it left New York. It made it seem as if the Germans had deliberately targeted the *Lusitania* even though it knew it was not a warship.

In February 1917 the British Secret Service intercepted a message from the Foreign Ministry in Berlin to the German Embassy in Mexico. It was called the Zimmermann Telegram, and it was an offer of support from the German government if Mexico waged war on the United States. The Germans suggested the Mexicans invade Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. This behind-the-back deal to conquer a

piece of sovereign U.S. territory outraged Americans. The Zimmermann Telegram led directly to President Wilson's request for a declaration of war against Germany.