Worksheet 4 – Why were the soldiers there?

Some European countries had been arguing for many years over which of them was the most powerful. By 1914 they formed roughly into two groups. One group, known as the 'Central Powers' was led by Germany, and the other, the 'Allies', was led by Britain and France.

Tempers grew, threats were made, insults exchanged, weapons collected. All it needed was an excuse to declare war, and that came when a Serbian shot dead the Archduke of Austria. War was duly declared. Sides were taken and by August 1914, World War 1 had begun.

Courtesy of Penguin Publications

The Central Powers were Germany, Bulgaria, Austria Hungary and Turkey (Ottoman)

The Allies were, Britain, France, Belgium, Russia, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Greece and Serbia.

Also among the Allies were many countries from the British Empire. Which countries were they? Find them on an atlas.

Identify each European country involved on the map here, then on the larger map on the next page you could colour them in using a different colour for each group.

So many soldiers lost their lives during some of the fierce battles of the war that there was a great need for more men to become soldiers.

Volunteers were called for, and young men flocked to join the army but even more were needed. Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, decreed that all healthy men between the ages of 18 and 41 were to be forced to join the army.
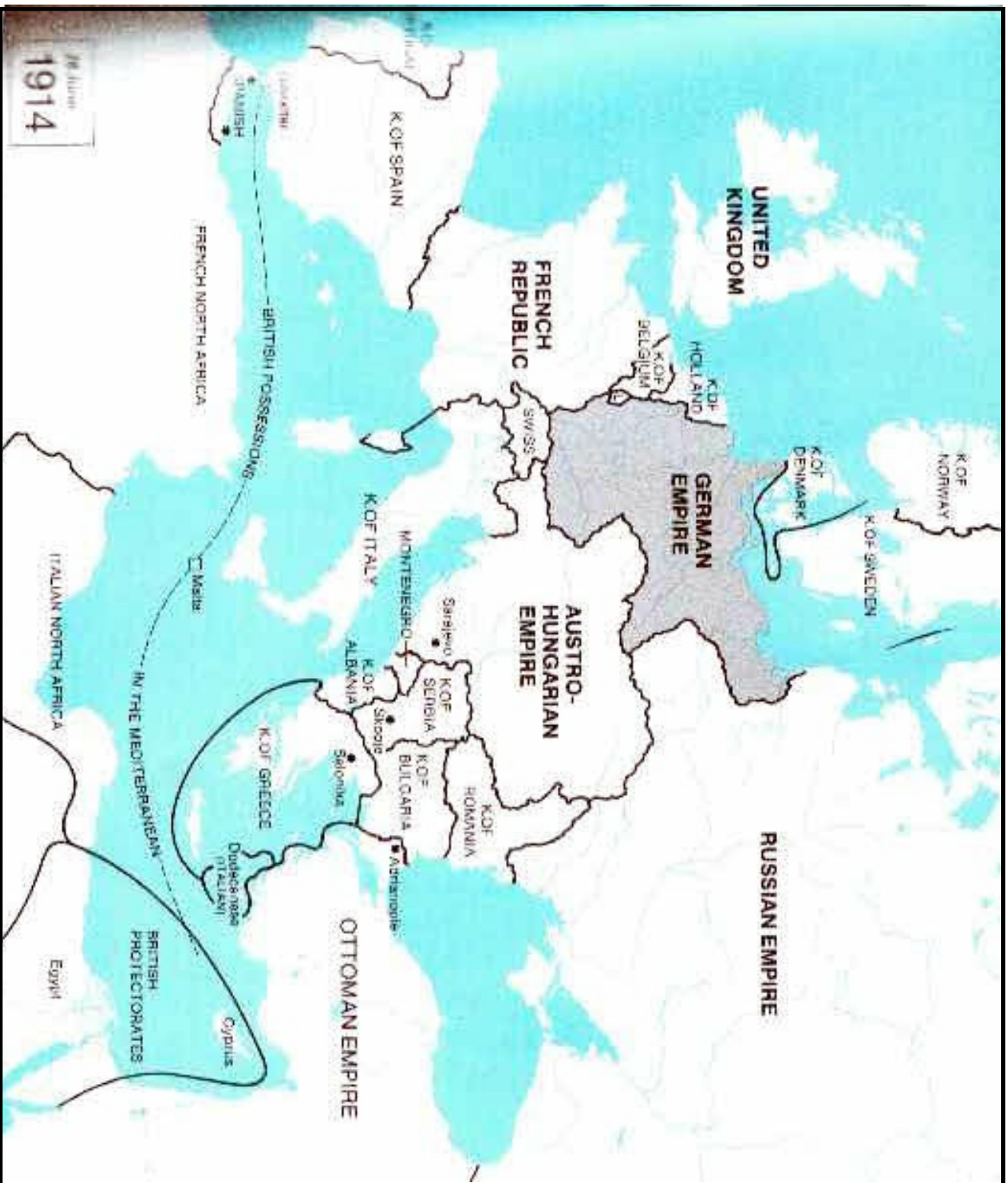
This was called conscription.

Many men had to leave their peacetime jobs in order to learn how to be soldiers in Kitchener's New Army. Special training camps were set up for these men, one of which was at Fovant.

WW1 poster in which Kitchener calls the country's young men to join his New Army.

*Use a dictionary

Worksheet 4 – Europe 1914

1914

UNITED KINGDOM

FRENCH REPUBLIC

K. OF SPAIN

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

BRITISH POSSESSIONS

ITALIAN NORTH AFRICA

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Malta

K. OF BELGIUM

K. OF HOLLAND

SWISS

GERMAN EMPIRE

K. OF DENMARK

K. OF NORWAY

K. OF SWEDEN

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

K. OF ITALY

MONTENEGRO

Sarajevo

K. OF ALBANIA

Skopje

K. OF SERBIA

K. OF BULGARIA

K. OF ROMANIA

K. OF GREECE

Salonika

Dodecanese (ITALIAN)

Adrianople

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Egypt

BRITISH PROTECTORATES

Cyprus

Central Powers

Germany, Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary, Turkey (Ottoman)

The Allies

Britain, France, Belgium, Russia, Romania, Portugal, Greece and Serbia.

(The letter K in front of a country's name means that it was a kingdom – ruled by a King.)