



Discovery Worksheets

World War I — war and technology

Technology at the start of the War

1. Add the following labels to the picture on the right: trench, parapet, barbed wire, no-man's-land, shell holes, firestep. Use the description below and a dictionary to help you.

'Technology at the start of the War gave advantages to the defenders. Once the trenches were dug, barbed wire slowed down the attackers and the machine guns cut down enormous numbers of troops in an exposed no-man's-land. Digging deep trenches minimised the effects of the new massive artillery barrages. Troops were able to emerge quickly to man their positions once the shelling stopped to meet the enemy advance.'



2. Prepare definitions for each of the labels in your diagram.

Changing technology during World War II

A breakthrough in this painful stalemate of trench warfare came at the end of World War I when the British developed the motorised tank. The early tank was heavy, cumbersome and quite difficult to manoeuvre, and its effect was often just psychological on the enemy troops. Tanks only reached their full battle potential during World War II.

3. Below is a chart showing the main weapons used in World War I. Complete the chart explaining the specific military purpose of each weapon:

Technology	Military purpose
Barbed wire	
Machine guns	
Light flares	
Mustard gas	
Flame-throwers	
Tanks	
Artillery barrage	



Atlas of Discovery, pp. 38–39;

Internet — www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWtrench.htm