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CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARD 10.5.3

Major Events Affecting the Course of World War I

Specific Objective: Explain how the Russian Revolution and the entry of the United States affected the course and outcome of the war.

Read the sequence charts to answer questions on the next page.

The Turning Point of the War

The war dragged on. Hundreds of thousands of people had died or were homeless. Every country was short of food and weapons. Then, in 1917, a series of events brought the war to an end. The first event took place in Russia.

The Russian Revolution

Revolution Begins: In February, 1917, the women of St. Petersburg went out to buy food. When they discovered that shops were empty, they gathered in the streets. Others joined them, and a riot began. The tsar sent in troops, but the soldiers joined the rioters. A few days later, the tsar gave up. Russia no longer had a ruler.

Temporary Government: With the tsar gone, a temporary government took over to fight the war. In several cities, soldiers and workers formed soviets, or councils. These groups challenged the new government, especially its desire to keep fighting.

Lenin: In October 1917, a radical group known as the Bolsheviks took over, led by Vladimir Lenin. He called for the soviets to take over the government.

Surrender: On November 7, 1917, the Bolsheviks took over the country. By spring 1918, Russia and Germany had signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Germany and Austria no longer had to fight in the East. They could send more troops to fight on the Western Front.

The United States Enters World War I

U.S. Neutrality: For many years, the United States had stayed neutral. However, in 1917, the Germans announced unrestricted submarine warfare. Their submarines would sink, without warning, any ship in the waters around Britain.

A New War: German U-boats sank three U.S. ships bound for Great Britain. On April 2, 1917, the U.S. entered the war on the side of the Allies.

To the Rescue: By June of 1918, U.S. troops were arriving in France at the rate of 250,000 a month. The U.S. also provided tons of food and about \$10 billion in loans to the Allied governments.

Ambiens: By 1918, German troops were exhausted. The Americans were numerous and eager to fight. In August, the decisive battle of the war took place near Ambiens, France. About 300 Allied tanks broke the German lines.

The End of the War: The Germans' resources were strained. The Central Powers were crumbling. On November 9, the German Kaiser gave up his throne. On November 11, a new German republic signed an agreement ending the war.

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CALIFORNIA CONTENT

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

STANDARD 10.5.3

1 What was the immediate goal of Lenin and the Bolsheviks?

- to gain access to Germany's industrial resources
- to help the temporary government fight the war
- to end Russia's involvement in the
- **D** to return the tsar to power

What happened when the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed?

- **A** The Russians pulled out of the war.
- The treaty ended World War I
- Germany withdrew from the war.
- **D** The United States entered the war.

Which German action was most important in bringing the United States into World War I?

- A German invasion of Russia
- unrestricted submarine warfare
- trench warfare on the Western Front
- **D** German use of poison gas

4 By the time the United States entered World War I, fighting was focused on

- A the Eastern Front
- the Western Front
- C former Russian territory
- **D** the seas around Great Britain

After entering World War I, the United States most helped the Allies by

- **A** fighting Germany in the sea around Britain.
- negotiating with the Central Powers.
- sending the Allies supplies, troops, and monetary loans.
- trying to convince the Russians to return to fighting.

What main motivation finally forced the Central Powers to surrender on November 11, 1918?

- They did not have the resources or soldiers to fight the Americans.
- Their people refused to fight any longer.
- Austria-Hungary had already signed a peace treaty with the Allies.
- **D** They no longer wanted to fight the large Russian army in the East.