**The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand**

* Archduke Franz Ferdinand - in charge of Austria-Hungary
* Trying to take over another country called Serbia.
* June 28th 1914, the Archduke and his wife Sophie decided to visit Serbia.
* Group of Serbian men (the ‘Black Hand’) attacked them.
* One threw grenade - exploded under wrong car - injured people inside
* After lunch, Franz & Sophie went to visit injured people in hospital
* Driver took a wrong turn - car stopped to reverse
* Gavrilo Princip (Black Hand member) stepped forward and shot both the Archduke and his wife.



**Empires**

* Many countries in Europe had already taken over and 'owned' other countries
* Enabled them to easily take valuable resources & sell products back to those countries
* Some countries had much bigger empires than others
* Caused much tension between countries – always competition to grow empires



**Arms Race**

* Before 1914, countries in Europe began spending more money on armies, navies & weapons
* Wanted to defend themselves in case they were invaded by other countries
* In 1906, Britain built HMS Dreadnought – bigger, better & faster than any other ship

**Alliances**

* Everyone nervous about other countries invading their own
* Some countries decided to form an alliance - promised to help each other
* In 1882, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the Triple Alliance
* Promised to help each other if any other country attacked one of them.
* In 1907, France, Russia and Britain formed the Triple Entente (French for 'friendship or agreement').
* They agreed to help each other if anyone from Triple Alliance attacked.

