



## The War to End All Wars

This month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's entry into World War I. By the time the U.S. joined the conflict on April 6, 2017, the war had already been raging for nearly three years. The war, which began July 28, 1914, a month after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, eventually involved more than 70 million military personnel,



*Uncle Sam, as depicted by James Montgomery Flagg on a World War I recruiting poster. Flagg served as his own model for the iconic portrait.*

including 60 million Europeans. All the world's economic great powers participated in the war, which saw innovations in planes and tanks and changed the map of the world from the empires of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the independent nations of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The conflict, called "the war to end all wars," ended on November 11, 1918, having cost the lives of 9 million combatants and 70 million civilians. As history would prove, it did not end all wars, but rather set the stage for an even more violent world war two decades later. Your students can learn about World War I with several CCC! Streaming Media programs, including *Talking Maps: World War I*, which gives a brief history of the conflict while highlighting the geographic locations of the countries involved.



[PLAY: "World War I" from the series Talking Maps](#)



[PLAY: "Henry V" from the series The Complete BBC Shakespeare Collection](#)

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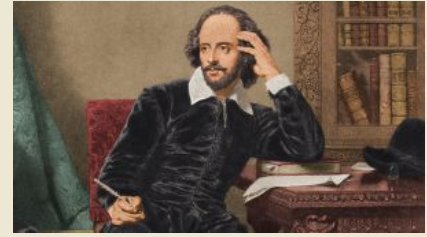
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# *We Few, We Happy Few, We Band of Brothers*

Hailed as the greatest wordsmith of the English language, actor, poet and playwright William

Shakespeare was born in this month on April 26, 1564. In his 52-year lifetime, Shakespeare wrote plays that, four

centuries later, still entrance audiences worldwide. He coined numerous phrases - "brevity is the soul of wit" (*Hamlet*), "dead as a doornail" (*Henry VI, Part II*), "the game is afoot" (*Henry IV, Part I*), "love is blind" (*The Merchant of Venice*), "milk of human kindness" (*Macbeth*), "wild goose chase" (*Romeo and Juliet*) - and, in the St. Crispin's Day Speech from Act IV, Scene iii of *Henry V*, "we band of brothers." Spoken in the play by King Henry V to inspire his outnumbered English troops to victory against the French, it remains one of the most rousing speeches ever put to paper. During World War II, actor Laurence Olivier delivered the speech during a radio program to boost British morale. You can see *Henry V* - as well as full-length BBC productions of 35 other Shakespeare plays - in **CCC! Streaming Media**.



*Over 2,000 words had their first recorded usage in the works of Shakespeare, including assassination, excellent, zany, moonbeam, eyeball, obscene, gossip, lonely and cold-blooded.*

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