American Military Involvement in WWI

The U.S. Army chose John J. Pershing to command the troops.

The U.S. developed a convoy system because... they needed to maintain the flow of products needed to sustain the war effort.

A convoy is... a large group of merchant vessels sailing together.

The purpose of the first U.S. troops to arrive in Europe was to... prop up sagging French morale. This first Division symbolized America's commitment to the fight & its intention to send more troops.

Russia pulled out of the war because... the new Govt struggled to keep up the war effort - 2 mil troops deserted the front lines. Lenin wanted to sell Russia on the road to communism.

This allowed Germany to shift all of its troops to the Western Front. Germans began a "peace offensive" in 1918 to try to defeat the Allies quickly.

Chateau-Thierry
Beginning of June Germans broke through Allied lines & got within 50 miles of Paris. Millions of Parisians began to flee & panic hit before American troops arrived to reinforce the Allies.

Belleau Wood
Heavily forested area that had been fortified with barbed wire, artillery, & machine guns. 3 weeks of hand-to-hand combat. U.S. Marines had many casualties but in their first major battle were successful driving the Germans out.

mid-July 1918

Second Battle of the Marne
Germans attempted a new drive towards Paris. They gained a lot then stalled more than 250,000 American troops participated in the Allies counter-attack. Forced the Germans to pull back.

Argonne Forest
Germans wasted by the flu & an Allied blockade, many were losing their will to fight. Allies pushed forward to the Meuse River & Argonne Forest in NE France that was heavily fortified to slow a first then German defenses began to crumble.

Sept. 1918

The Armistice
German military & political leaders realized their cause was lost & decided to seek an armistice. France & Britain wanted to impose a harsh settlement & dictated the terms. Germany pull back troops from Western Front, cancel Treaty of Brest-Litovsk & hand over entire U-boat fleet.

Early Autumn 1918

World War ended on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 at 11:00am.

November 11, 1918