Trench - A long cut in the ground that has been dug to serve as shelter from enemy fire or attack. Life was pretty cramped in the Trenches as you lived in the mud which was often damp from recent rain.
In order to gain land, soldiers had to go over the top of their trench, rush across No Man’s Land, and then enter their enemies trench without being killed.
No Man’s Land is the land between two enemy trenches. This land is incredibly dangerous because in order to cross it and take more land for you country, you must leave the safety of your trench and basically be an open target for your enemy.
Stalemate

I've a Little Wet Home in a Trench

I've a little wet home in a trench
Where the rainstorms continually drench,
    There's a dead cow close by
With her feet in towards the sky
And she gives off a terrible stench.

underneath, in the place of a floor,
    There's a mass of wet mud and some straw,
But with shells dropping there,
    There's no place to compare,
With my little wet home in the trench.

Because of how difficult it was to gain new land using the trenches, many soldiers settled into their ‘homes’ in the trenches. Historians look back and call the time of no fighting during World War 1 a stalemate because neither side wanted to send soldiers over to fight as they know they would all die.
Eastern vs. Western Front

Trenches were mainly used on the Western Front bordering Germany and France. Remember the Poppies on Veteran’s Day... That battle was in the town of Flanders in France and it had many trenches.
### Central Powers vs. Allies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Powers</th>
<th>Allies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Triple Alliance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Triple Entente</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Italy (they break their alliance with Germany and AH to join the Allies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Death in the Trenches I

WORLD WAR I

IN NUMBERS

16,000,000 TOTAL KILLED
7,700,000 POW & MISSING
956,703 ARMED FORCES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE KILLED
2,272,998 ARMED FORCES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE WOUNDED

TOTAL COST OF WORLD WAR ONE
£3,251,000,000

65 MILLION MEN MOBILISED
ALLIED TANKS PRODUCED
6,500

37,000,000 TOTAL CASUALTIES

BULLETS £3,871,000
(Based on annual supply of rounds)

TOBACCO £2,765,000
(One year's supply of tobacco & cigarettes)
Diseases like Gangrene, Trench Foot, and the Spanish Influenza were serious killers during WW1. By the end of the war, the Spanish Influenza had killed three times more people in the world than the war. Trench Foot occurs when soldiers kept their feet in the cold and watery mud in the Trenches. Often times the only solution was amputation.
Boy Soldiers

Hundreds of boys falsified birth dates to meet the minimum age requirements. Desperate for soldiers, recruiting officers did not always check the boy’s details very carefully. One soldier said: “The recruiting sergeant asked me my age and when I told him he said, ‘You had better go out, come in again, and tell me different.’ I came back, told him I was nineteen and I was in.” Private E. Lugg was able to join the 13th Royal Sussex Regiment at the age of thirteen.
Rats in their millions infested the trenches. There were two main types, the black and brown rat. Both were despised but the brown rat was especially feared as it fed on human remains and could grow to be the size of a cat. Soldiers would even wake up feeling the rats crawl over their faces.

Another pest of the trenches was lice. Because the soldiers were so dirty and lived so close to one another lice multiplied quickly. One soldier counted 103 lice on his body alone.