What actually came out of the Paris Peace Conference?
Results of the Paris Peace Conference

• Treaties (more on that to come)
• New countries and boundaries that sometimes had very controversial borders (Czechoslovakia, most Middle Eastern countries, some African colonies) (we will look more at these later)
• A League of Nations (which remained weak, particularly because the US failed to join)
What was rejected?

• Japan’s desire for a “racial equality proposal” and all German colonies (they got half)
  – Japan felt the US was responsible for this and held a grudge that may have contributed to WWII

• Italy didn’t get half of the land it wanted, was greatly in debt, and left the conference in a rage

• Many smaller nations did not gain independence
  – Northern Ireland, African nations

• The US did not join the League of Nations nor sign any of the treaties. They created their own treaties in 1921.

• A national home for Jewish people
The Treaty of Versailles

Perhaps the most historically well known item to come out of the PPC
What was the Treaty?

• On 28 June 1919, the victors of WWI met at the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles, near Paris
• Consisted of 5 separate treaties with the defeated nations-Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey
• The Treaty with Germany, however, was by FAR the most important
• Germany was not allowed to send any delegates, and had no choice but to accept whatever was decided.
• Germans were forced to agree to the terms of peace.
• Affected millions of people, and a new map of Europe was created out of the “peace”! (more to come on this!)
The main points of the Treaty [BRAT]

1. **B** - Germany had to accept the **Blame** for starting the war (Clause 231). This was known as the “War Guilt” clause.

2. **R** - Germany had to pay £6,600 million (called **Reparations**) for the damage done during the war.

3. **A** - Germany was forbidden to have submarines or an air force. She could have a navy of only six battleships, and an **Army** of just 100,000 men. In addition, Germany was not allowed to place any troops in the Rhineland, the strip of land, 50 miles wide, next to France.

4. **T** - Germany lost **Territory** (land) in Europe (*see map on page 743*). Germany’s colonies were given to Britain and France.

   (Also, Germany was forbidden to join the League of Nations, or unite with Austria.)
Why did Germany have to pay for the whole thing?

Does this mean that Germans can’t play Battleship anymore?

Loud noises!! I don’t know what we’re yelling about???

I love this lamp!!
Discussion Questions about BRAT:

1. Many historians would go on to argue that the Treaty of Versailles was unfair in its treatment of Germany. What parts of it do you think are unfair? Be specific.
2. How do you think the treaty could damage Germany’s economy?
3. Why do you think the Allied countries wanted to punish Germany so badly?
Our Flags

Beat Germany
Support every flag that opposes Prussianism
Eat less of the food fighters need
Deny yourself something
Waste nothing

United States Food Administration

Ohio Historical Society
A German postcard, produced about the time of the Treaty of Versailles, showing the land where Germans lived.

The areas in red are the lands given to other countries by the Treaty of Versailles, (including the land lost by Austria).

Its title is 'Lost but not forgotten land'.

The poem under the map reads:

You must carve in your heart
These words, as in stone -
What we have lost
Will be regained!

Ins Herz sollst du dir graben
Dies Wort als wie in Stein:
Was wir verloren haben,
Darf nicht verloren sein!

Paul Warnke
The Treaty of Versailles: Historians Fighting Like Vicious Animals with No Thought for Innocent Bystanders

• Historians have traditionally argued that the Treaty of Versailles was quite a disaster.

• As time goes on though, some historians are trying to show a more sophisticated attitude. While admitting that it is flawed, they argue that for the time period it was the right decision.

FIGURE 2—Rabid dog exhibiting aggressive behavior.
The Legacy of the Treaty of Versailles:

• Brought peace (sort of), but at the cost of happiness
• Germans were bitter, looking for revenge (can you say WWII?)
• Russians (never invited) stood on the outside looking in
• Colonies continued to long for independence from imperialism
• A hopeful world ended up bitterly disappointed
Angry Crowds Before the Reichstag (May 15, 1919)

"Down with the brutal peace!": Demonstrators in the Lustgarten (1919)