The Alliance system:

Europe was dominated by 5 major powers at the start of the century:

Warm-up questions: Fill in basic info about the main European powers around 1900, like political system, sovereign, colonies, relations to the others,…

Britain – ………………………………………………………………………….

…………………………………………………………………………….

France - …………………………………………………………………………..

…………………………………………………………………………..

Russia - …………………………………………………………………………..

…………………………………………………………………………..

Austria-Hungary - ……………………………………………………………….

………………………………………………………………….

Germany - ……………………………………………………………………….

Some 50 years before World War I, the likes and dislikes of the European powers were very different from those which existed in 1914.

- **Great Britain** - had no ties with other countries in Europe and concentrated instead on building up her empire: Britain was said to be in „splendid isolation".
- The Emperors of **Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia** were tied to each other by an agreement called **Three Emperors´ League** (1873): The alliance between Tsar Alexander II, Emperor Franz Joseph I and Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany sought to resurrect the Holy Alliance of 1815 and act as a wall against radical sentiments the conservative rulers found disturbing.
- **France** – had few friends and was licking her wounds after her defeat in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870.

Era of new alliances: 1879 – 1907:

Things changed in 1879 when Germany was in quarrel with Russia. Germany was looking for protection against a possible Russian attack. Germany agreed with Austria that each would help the other if either of them was attacked.

Triple Alliance			
Year	**Countries**	**Name of Alliance**	**Notes**
1879	Germany and Austria-Hungary	Dual Alliance	Alliance against France and Russia.
1882	Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy	Triple Alliance	Italy at odds with France because of the areas in Africa. Therefore, looking for partners. Italy took Eritrea, Somaliland, and Libya (1912).

Triple Entente			
Year	**Countries**	**Treaty/Alliance**	**Notes**
1892	France, Russia	Franco-Russian Alliance	Triple Alliance worried France and Russia who both feared to be attacked and beaten. France and Russia agreed to help each other if either of them was attacked.
1904	Great Britain, France	Entente Cordial – "Friendly Understanding"	GB looking for partner in Europe after Germans showed sympathy for Boers in the Second Boer War (1889 – 1902). The Entente heralded the end of British neutrality in Europe (GB was no longer in "splendid isolation") "Entente" was also a response to growing German antagonism expressed in the creation of the Kaiserliche Marine battle fleet capable of threatening British naval supremacy. Entente Cordial defined the spheres of influence: Egypt, Sudan to Britain, Morocco to France. Preceded by the **Fashoda Incident** (1898): climax of imperial territorial disputes between Great Britain and France in Eastern Africa.
1907	Great Britain, Russia	Triple Entente	Settlement of disputes about Afganistan

By 1907 Europe was clearly divided into two sets of alliances:

The Triple Alliance	Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy
X	
The Triple Entente	Great Britain, France, Russia

Fill out the missing data so that the frames fit:

…………… wanted to be an Empire	………… interests in the Balkans	………… wanted Lybia, gained in 1912	⟹	

………… revenge to Germany	………… fear of the German navy	………… interests in the Balkans	⟹	
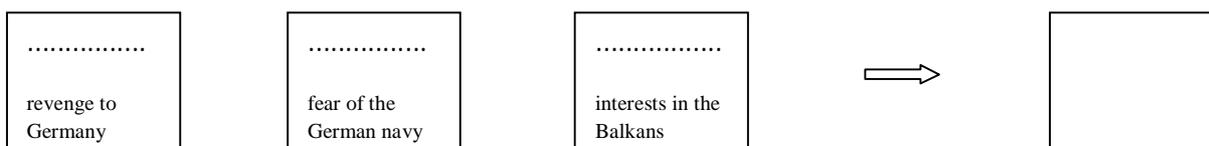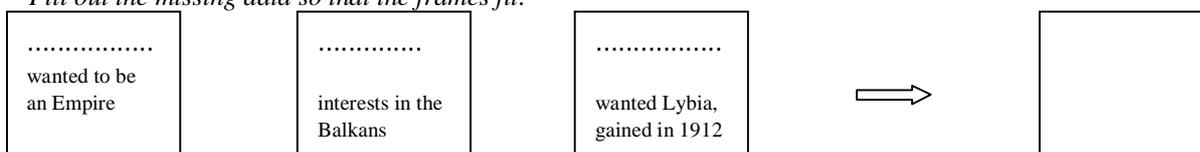
The countries in each alliance were powerful and well armed. If a quarrel started between two of them, it was that the quarrel would quickly spread as they called on their allies for help.