Objective: The student will be able to explain how and why Archduke Ferdinand’s assassination triggered World War I.

Materials: The Assassination (Springboard handout)  
            Conflict in a Small Town (handout)  
            Building Up for a … (handout)  
            MANIA (handout)

Terms to know: terrorist - one who commits violent acts for a cause

Procedure:
- After reviewing the Springboard, explain that if this assassination had taken place under other circumstances, it mostly likely would NOT have caused a global war. However, since so many other factors were already in play, it did. Go on to explain that in this lesson the student(s) will review the contributing factors and how they worked together to cause a world war.
- Distribute “Conflict in a Small Town” and “Building Up for a...” Have the student(s) work independently or in pairs to read the scenarios and determine which events were the build-ups to the violence and which sparked it.
- Have the student(s) share their ideas and discuss. During the discussion distribute “MANIA” and explain that this is an acronym for the four contributing factors (Militarism, Alliances, Nationalism and Imperialism) and the “spark” (Assassination) that started World War I. Then have them complete the analysis of the acronym.
- Have the student(s) share their answers and discuss. (Militarism: The New Neighbors and massive weapons build-up prior to the war; Alliances: The End of a Friendship and the formation of the Triple Alliance, which was later called the Central Powers, and Triple Entente, later referred to as the Allies; Nationalism: The High School Football Championship and the strong feelings of the many ethnic groups who wanted independence from various empires; Imperialism: I Don’t See Your Name on It and the land grab by European powers in Africa and elsewhere.)

Springboard: Students should read “The Assassination” and answer the question. (The assassination infuriated the Austro-Hungarian Empire which declared war on Serbia. The declarations of war pulled in other countries, supporting members of their alliances. The Allies, Great Britain, France, Russia, and all countries under their influence, fought the Central Powers, Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and theirs.)
June 28, 1914: The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

A group called the “Black Hand” planned the assassination of the Archduke. Borijove Jvtic, one of the leaders was arrested with 19 year old Gavrilo Princip after the assassination and gave this account:

A tiny clipping from a newspaper, mailed without comment from a secret band of terrorists ... to their comrades (fellow members of the Black Hand, a Serbian group that wanted to gain freedom for all Serb people) in Belgrade, was the torch which set the world afire with war in 1914. That bit of paper wrecked old, proud empires. It gave birth to new, free nations.

I was one of the members of the terrorist band in Belgrade (in free Serbia) which received it. The little clipping declared that the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand would visit Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia (part of Serbia under control of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), June 28, to direct army maneuvers in the neighboring mountains. (The Archduke, who was heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, planned to show off the Austrian army on an important historical date to the Serbians.) It reached our meeting place, the cafe called Zecnata Moruna, one night the latter part of April, 1914. ...

At a small table in a very humble cafe, beneath a flickering gas jet we sat and read it. There was no advice nor admonition (warning) sent with it. Only four letters and two numerals were sufficient to make us unanimous, without discussion, as to what we should do about it.

... all the twenty-two conspirators (those plotting to kill the Archduke) were in their allotted positions, armed and ready. They were distributed five hundred yards apart over the whole route along which the Archduke must travel from the railroad station to the town hall. When Franz Ferdinand and his retinue (attendants) drove from the station, they were allowed to pass the first two conspirators. The motor cars were driving too fast to make an attempt feasible (reasonable) and in the crowd were many Serbians; throwing a grenade would have killed many innocent people.

When the car passed, Gabrinovic, the compositor (typesetter), threw his grenade. It hit the side of the car, but Francis Ferdinand, with presence of mind, threw himself back and was uninjured. Several officers riding in his attendance were injured. The cars sped to the Town Hall and the rest of the conspirators did not interfere with them. After the reception in the Town Hall General Potiorek, the Austrian Commander, pleaded with Francis Ferdinand to leave the city, as it was seething with rebellion. The Archduke was persuaded to drive the shortest way out of the city and to go quickly.

The road to the maneuvers was shaped like the letter V, making a sharp turn at the bridge over the River Nilgacka. Francis Ferdinand’s car could go fast enough until it reached this spot, but here it was forced to slow down for the turn. Here Princip had taken his stand. As the car came abreast, he (Princip) stepped forward from the curb, drew his automatic pistol from his coat and fired two shots.

The first struck the wife of the Archduke, the Archduchess Sofia, in the abdomen. She was an expectant mother. She died instantly. The second bullet struck the Archduke close to the heart. He uttered only one word, ‘Sofia’ -- a call to his stricken wife. Then his head fell back and he collapsed. He died almost instantly.

The officers seized Princip. They beat him over the head with the flat of their swords. They knocked him down, they kicked him, scraped the skin from his neck with the edges of their swords, tortured him, all but killed him. The next day they put chains on Princip’s feet, which he wore till his death. ... I was placed in the cell next to Princip’s, and when Princip was taken out to walk in the prison yard I was taken along as his companion... (Princip died in prison in 1918 of tuberculosis.)

How do you think this assassination could have “sparked” World War I?
SITUATION 1: The High School Football Championship

Everyone in Harrison is a fan of the high school football team. On game day they wear team colors, decorate their cars, and hang flags in front of their homes. The players are local celebrities and the coaches are heroes. Last night was the district championship. It started out as a great game, but mean-spirited play by the opposing team led to chaos in the fourth quarter.

With the game tied and one minute to go, an opposing player made a late hit on the Harrison star quarterback, sending him to the hospital with a broken arm. The stands emptied, family and friends charged on the field, and punches flew. Since the opposing team had equally strong feelings about their team, they fought back to protect their players. The police came to break up the violence, but not before 120 people were injured.

SITUATION 2: The New Neighbors

Elmdale is a very close-knit and friendly community. When new neighbors move in, everyone takes time to introduce themselves. But the new people on Rosemont Street have everyone a bit concerned, because they don’t answer their door. The house is always dark, and the shades are drawn. A group of boys, unable to stand the curiosity, peeks into the basement windows and are shocked by what they see! The room is packed with guns, rifles, homemade bombs, and body armor! They run home to tell their parents, and word spreads quickly through the neighborhood.

The police say they cannot do anything because the boys had no right to trespass, and they won’t take the words of a bunch of nosy neighbors. The frightened neighbors feel the only thing they can do is protect their own families, so they all buy guns. A few nights later they are awakened by what sounds like gun shots. They grab their guns and head outside. A nervous older man fires a shot into the air after a barking dog startles him. Several other guns go off in response. By the time the police arrive, two people are dead and four others are injured.

SITUATION 3: The End of a Friendship

Suzanne and Maria have been friends since kindergarten and are now juniors at Greenway High School. Suzanne is the star shortstop of the girl’s softball team and head of the athletic clique. Maria is president of student council and an honor student. Among the “brains” she is definitely at the top. Although the two girls have developed different interests and groups of friends over the years, they have remained very close and always spent a lot of time together.

However, this past weekend, Suzanne couldn’t believe her eyes when she saw Maria flirting with her boyfriend at the spring dance. Word spread quickly, and Suzanne’s softball friends all come to comfort her. At the same time, Maria hears that Suzanne is furious at her and can’t believe that her best friend is spreading horrible rumors about her. By the following Monday morning, the whole student body has picked sides. Tensions rise as the former friends shoot dirty looks and make rude comments to each other. After school the arguing breaks into a huge fight involving over 25 girls!

SITUATION 4: I Don’t See Your Name On It!

Sunshine Mall is “the place to be” for Westway High students. On the other side of town Riverdale High students spent their time at the Extreme Arcade and Bowling Alley. But recently the owner of the arcade put a new policy into effect: on the weekends anyone under age 18 must have adult supervision. The move was in response to recent vandalism, which the owner is convinced was done by the teenagers. Although angry about the policy, the Riverdale kids realize they can’t change it so they begin to go to Sunshine Mall on the weekends.

At first the Westway students are sympathetic. After a few weeks, though, tensions rise; there are no empty tables in the food court, seats in the movie theater, or parking places in the lot. The Westway students feel pushed from their turf and fights break out between the two groups.
The High School Football Championship:
What events in Harrison contributed to the big fight on the field? ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
What event was the “trigger” or the “spark” that started the fight? ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

The New Neighbors:
What events in Elmdale contributed to people getting killed and injured? _________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
What event was the “trigger” or the “spark” that started the gunshots? ______________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

The End of a Friendship:
What events contributed to the fight? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
What event was the “trigger” or the “spark” that started the fight? ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

I Don’t See Your Name on It!
What events in this town contributed to the fights at the mall? ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
What event was the “trigger” or the “spark” that started the fights? ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
**Militarism:** glorification of the military, often with an aggressive build up of military forces

Scenario Example: ____________________________

Example from Pre-WWI Europe: ________________

Alliances: agreements between two or more nations to assist one another in the event of an attack or war

Scenario Example: ____________________________

Example from Pre-WWI Europe: ________________

**Nationalism:** intense love and pride in one's nation or people

Scenario Example: ____________________________

Example from Pre-WWI Europe: ________________

**Imperialism:** policy of dominating weaker nations

Scenario Example: ____________________________

Example from Pre-WWI Europe: ________________

**ASSASSINATION** of the Archduke Ferdinand, the SPARK!

Scenario Example: ____________________________

Explain how a SPARK can cause a difficult situation to explode: ________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________