

NAME: _____

PERIOD: _____

It's Now or Never! The Meuse Argonne Offensive

Student Directions

1. Go to the website, <FINAL Website to be determined> . Click on the link for the map “**It's Now or Never: The Battle of the Meuse Argonne**”
2. Before you is an interactive map that contains the following important features about the Battle of the Meuse Argonne:
 - Meuse Argonne Images** – variety of images and primary sources from the Meuse Argonne Offensive.
 - Primary Focus** – hyperlink to General Pershing’s dedication to AEF and Meuse Argonne Offensive.
 - Day One** – American advancement lines during Day 1 of the Meuse Argonne Offensive.
 - Phase One** – American advancement lines between September 26 – October 3
 - Phase Two** - American advancement lines between October 4 – October 7
 - Phase Three** - American advancement lines between October 8 – October 31
 - Phase Four** - American advancement lines between November 1 – November 11
 - Important Towns:** Towns of particular interest during the Meuse Argonne Offensive.
 - Towns:** Towns of particular interest during the Meuse Argonne Offensive.
 - Farms** - all of the major farms located within the Meuse Argonne battlefield
 - Hills** – all of the major hills that were part of the Meuse Argonne battlefield.
 - Bois (Woods)** – the wooded sections of the battlefield
 - Railroads** – the railroads that ran through or near the battlefield.
 - Rivers** – the two major rivers that were part of this battlefield.
 - German Lines** – major German defensive lines that were part of this battlefield.
 - Hindenberg Line** – the strongest of the German defensive lines.
 - Important Heights** – the major heights of the Meuse Argonne battlefield.
 - Meuse Argonne Area** – the battlefield area

THE “BATTLEFIELD”

1. Choose the Bookmark “Measurement” and use the measure tool to calculate the total square mileage of the battlefield. To do this click on the measure tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. Click, drag, and click to draw a box around the battlefield and answer Q1 on your answer sheet.

Q1 – How large was the area that the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) had to capture?

DAY ONE

3. Choose the Bookmark “Day 1” and zoom into the battlefield.
4. Turn on the layer, “Day One.” (September 26, 1918) and the layer “Meuse Argonne Images.” Look at the distribution of advancement lines and then click on and open some of the images located in the vicinity of the day one advancement lines. Turn on the German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q2 – Q4 on your answer document. **Use the scroll bar to scroll down to find these layers.** Turn them off when you are done and ready to move onto the next phase of the battle.

Q2 - Describe the geography and landscapes of Day One using the map and the pictures provided.

Q3 – Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together and/or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met lots of resistance/fighting. Which areas appear most contested during day one?

Q4– What feature(s) on the map appear to have been the American Expeditionary Force’s (AEF) objective on Day One?

2. Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during day 1 of the battle. To do this click on the measure tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. Click, drag, and click to draw a box around the Day One advancement lines and answer Q5 on your answer sheet.

Q5 – How much ground did the AEF gain control of during Day One?

PHASE ONE

5. Choose the Bookmark “Phase One” and zoom into the battlefield.
6. Turn on the layer, “Phase One” (September 26 – October 3) and keep the layer “Meuse Argonne Images” visible. Look at the distribution of this phase’s advancement lines and click on and open some of the images located in the vicinity of these advancement lines. Turn on the German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q6- Q8 on your answer document. **Use the scroll bar to scroll down to find these layers.** Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q6 - Describe the geography and landscapes of Phase One using the map and the pictures provided.

Q7 - Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together and/or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met lots of resistance/fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Phase One?

Q8 – What features on the map appear to have been the American Expeditionary Force’s (AEF) objective during Phase One?

3. Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during Phase One of the battle. To do this click on the measure tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. Click, drag, and click to draw a box around the Phase One advancement lines and answer Q9 on your answer sheet.

Q9 – How much ground did the AEF gain control of during Phase One?

PHASE TWO

7. Choose the Bookmark “Phase Two” and zoom into the battlefield.
8. Turn on the layer, “Phase Two” (October 4 – October 7) and keep the layer “Meuse Argonne Images” visible. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and click on and open some of the images located in the vicinity of the Phase Two advancement lines. Turn on the German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q10- Q12 on your answer document. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q10 - Describe the geography and landscapes of Phase Two using the map and the pictures provided.

Q11 - Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together and/or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met lots of resistance/fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Phase Two?

Q12 – What features on the map appear to have been the American Expeditionary Force’s (AEF) objective during Phase Two?

9. Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during Phase Two of the battle. Answer Q13 on your answer sheet.

Q13 – How much ground did the AEF gain control of during Phase Two?

PHASE THREE

10. Choose the Bookmark “Phase Three” and zoom into the battlefield.
 11. Turn on the layer, “Phase Three” (October 8 – October 31) and keep the layer “Meuse Argonne Images” visible. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and click on and open some of the images located in the vicinity of the Phase Three advancement lines. Turn on the German Lines and
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Important Heights layers to help answer Q14- Q16 on your answer document. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q14 - Describe the geography and landscapes of Phase Three using the map and the pictures provided.

Q15 - Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together and/or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met lots of resistance/fighting.

Which areas appear most contested during Phase Three?

Q16 – What features on the map appear to have been the American Expeditionary Force’s (AEF) objective during Phase Three?

12. Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during Phase Three of the battle. Answer Q17 on your answer sheet.

Q17 – How much ground did the AEF gain control of during Phase Three?

PHASE FOUR

13. Choose the Bookmark “Phase Four” and zoom into the battlefield.

14. Turn on the layer, “Phase Four” (November 1 – November 11) and keep the layer “Meuse Argonne Images” visible. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and click on some of the images located in the vicinity of the Phase Four advancement lines. Turn on the German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q18 – Q20 on your answer document. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q18- Describe the geography and landscapes of Phase Four using the map and the pictures provided.

Q19 - Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together and/or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met lots of resistance/fighting.

Which areas appear most contested during Phase Four?

Q20 – What features on the map appear to have been the American Expeditionary Force’s (AEF) objective during Phase Four?

15. Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during Phase Four of the battle. Answer Q21 on your answer sheet.

Q21 – How much ground did the AEF gain control of during Phase Four?

16. Look at the layer Phase Four and consider and answer these reflection questions. Answer Q22 and Q23 on your answer sheet.

Q22 – What were the options of the German Army during Phase Four?

Q23 - What were the options of the American Army during Phase Four?

PRIMARY FOCUS

17. Choose the bookmark “Primary Focus” and zoom into the battlefield.

18. Turn on the layer, “Primary Focus.”

19. Click on the placemark and open the image. Read General Pershing’s dedication to the ABMC Montfaucon American Memorial and then answer Q24 and Q25 on your answer document.

Q24– What does General Pershing note about the weather during this battle? Why do you think he chose to make note of this when reflecting on this battle?

Q25 – Pershing’s remarks includes the following statements: “The Meuse Argonne Battle presented numerous difficulties seemingly insurmountable.”; and “one of the greatest achievements in the history of American Arms?” From what you have seen in the maps and images from this battle identify and explain 3-5 reasons Pershing would make these bold statements about the Meuse Argonne Offensive’s place in American history.
