Why did Germany lose the First World War?

America joins the war in April 1917

- America joined the war on the side of the British and French
- America provided 250,000 fresh and enthusiastic troops per month
- America gave Britain and France loans to help them buy weapons and materials for the war

German allies dropped out of the war

- Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria all dropped out of the war in 1918
- Germany had no allies or support left
- Germany was isolated as all her enemies could now concentrate on attacking Germany

German 'big push' failed

- The German Ludendorff Offensive in spring 1918 made great gains at first. It smashed through the British lines
- However, it was too successful. German troops were too tired and there were no reserves to replace the tired soldiers
- In August 1918 the Allies counter attacked and made massive gains
- By September 1918 German commanders admitted that war was lost and refused to take orders from the leader Kaiser Wilhelm II

Germany was starving

- The British had been blockading German ports, preventing food and supplies from entering the country
- The Germans were starving
- A flu pandemic swept across Germany
- Germans were too weak to fight off the flu due to their poor diets
- The German people lost the will to fight on.

Britain beat the U boat with convoys

- The U boat was the German submarine
- They had been destroying British ships carrying food and supplies into the country
- It was very successful to begin with: 1 in 4 British ships were sunk
- The British introduced the convoy system which was groups of ships sailing together and being protected by an anti U boat ship called the destroyer. These protected ships and destroyed the U boats
- Britain did not starve and could keep up the fight