Name _____

PRIMARY SOURCE

The Treaty of Versailles has 440 articles. Germany signed it in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, near Paris, on June 28, 1919, five years to the day after the assassination in Sarajevo. Here are five parts, each beside a plain-English version. In the treaty, "the Allied and Associated Governments" means the winners, including the United States.

The Treaty of Versailles, 1919

	The treaty's words	In plain English
League Covenant	*THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES, In order to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security ... Agree to this Covenant of the League of Nations.*	The countries signing this treaty agree to set up the League of Nations, so that nations work together and keep the peace.
Article 42	*Germany is forbidden to maintain or construct any fortifications either on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank to the west of a line drawn 50 kilometres to the East of the Rhine.*	Germany may not keep or build forts west of the Rhine River, or in a strip 50 kilometers wide east of it. (This land, the Rhineland, borders France.)
Article 160	*... After that date the total number of effectives in the Army of the States constituting Germany must not exceed one hundred thousand men, including officers and establishments of depots. The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers.*	From 1920 Germany's army may have no more than 100,000 men, officers included. It may be used only to keep order inside Germany and to guard its borders.
Article 231	*The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.*	The winners say, and Germany agrees, that Germany and its allies are responsible for all the loss and damage the winners and their people suffered, because Germany and its allies attacked them and forced the war on them.
Article 232	*The Allied and Associated Governments recognise that the resources of Germany are not adequate ... to make complete reparation for all such loss and damage. The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property ...*	The winners know Germany cannot pay for all the damage. But Germany must still pay for all the damage done to the winners' ordinary people (civilians) and their property.

Treaty of Peace with Germany (Treaty of Versailles), signed June 28, 1919: Part I (the Covenant of the League of Nations), Part III Article 42, Part V Article 160, Part VIII Articles 231 and 232. Official English text from the Avalon Project, Yale Law School (https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/versailles_menu.asp). Public domain. Exact words; ... marks words left out.