

**Where? Why There? The Meuse Argonne**  
**Student Directions**

1. Go to the website, <FINAL Website to be determined> . Click on the link for the map “**Where? Why There? The Meuse Argonne.**”
2. Before you is an interactive map that contains the following important features about the Meuse Argonne:
  - **Map Media:** A panoramic video showing the landscape of the Meuse-Argonne area.
  - **Towns:** Towns of particular interest during the Meuse Argonne Offensive.
  - **Towns** – all of the towns located within the Meuse Argonne battlefield
  - **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
  - **Division Sections** – sections of the battle where different divisions fought. Optional layer that is available.

3. Notice that three layers are visible or “checked” - Meuse Argonne Area, Important Towns, and Important Heights.
4. Use the measure tool and the area feature to measure the total area of the battlefield. To do this click on the measure tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. If needed, zoom out a little bit. Draw a box around the battlefield and answer Q1 and Q2 on your answer sheet.

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

**Q2 – Given the size of this battlefield what do you think the AEF will need to capture it?**

5. Choose the **Bookmark, Paris**. Use the measure tool and the distance feature (change to miles) to find out how far this battlefield is from Paris, and Verdun. Record your measurement as answer Q3 on your answer sheet.

**Q3 – How far was the battlefield from Paris? Verdun?**

6. Choose the **Bookmark, Meuse-Argonne**. Make the layer “Rivers” visible by checking the box. Answer Q4 and Q5 on your answer document.

**Q4 - What do you notice about the rivers in this region?**

**Q5 – Why were these rivers important to the German Army and the civilians living in this area in the area?**

7. Make the layer “Hills” visible. Answer Q6 – Q8 on your answer sheet.

**Q6 - How would you describe the distribution of hills in this battle area?**

**Q7 What advantages will these hills give the Germans who were already in this area??**

**Q8 – What challenges will these hills present the Americans?**

8. Turn on the layer “Bois”. Bois indicates areas of woods and forests. Answer Q9 and Q10 on your answer document.

**Q9 – How would you describe the distribution of the forests in the area?**

**Q10 - How do you think this land cover and distribution of wooded areas will impact fighting in the area?**

9. Turn on the layer “Railroads.” Answer Q11 and Q12 on your answer document.

**Q11 - How would you describe the distribution of German railroads in this region?**

**Q12 - Why do you think railroads were import to the German forces and important for Americans capture?**

10. . Turn on the layer “Hindenburg Line.” The Hindenburg line was the strongest of the German lines. Answer Q13 on your answer document.

**Q13 - What do you notice about the placement of this line in relation to the Battlefield? What does it appear to be defending?**

11. Turn on the layer “German Lines.” Answer Q14 and Q15 on your answer document.

**Q14 - How would you describe the distribution of the rest of the German lines in the area? Are they close together or far apart?**

**Q15 - Why do you think they were placed where they were?**

12. Turn on the layer “towns” from the menu on the left. Answer Q16 and Q 17 on your answer document.

**Q16 – How would you describe the distribution of towns in this area?**

**Q17 - What are some things that armies need to be aware of when fighting near or in civilian towns?**

13. Turn on the layer “Map Media”. Notice a placemark  becomes visible near the lower center of the map. Zoom to and click on this placemark and open up the video that shows what the landscape of the Meuse Argonne area looks like today. Watch this video and then answer Q18 on your answer document.

**Q18 - Based on what you have seen in this interactive battle map of the Meuse-Argonne Battlefield, what did the American forces have to do to take control of this area? Make a list of all of the challenges and concerns the American Army had to consider and deal with in winning and capturing this battlefield?**

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