

Name:

Worksheet: **What were the origins of the tanks?**

### **What were the origins of the tanks?**

During the First World War, at the turn of 1914 and 1915, the front stabilized, but position fights cost the lives of thousands of soldiers on both sides. Therefore, it began a search for new types of weapons that would make it possible to gain an advantage without suffering so many lives. British Colonel Ernest Swilton proposed to use armored tracked tractors to protect the attacking walker-soldiers, and this is how the implementation of this idea gave rise to tanks.

The first prototype of the armored vehicle was named "Little Willie". It weighed 18 tons and moved only at a speed of 3.2 km / h, but it could overcome trenches and barbed wire entanglements up to 1.35 m wide.

Due to the similarity of the first tanks to water tanks and to confuse German intelligence, the new machine was called a 'tank'. The main advantage of the first tanks was their armor, protecting against fire from small arms and machine guns, and tracks, enabling them to overcome trenches and barbed wire entanglements.

Then the tanks called Mark I were created. These tanks were used for the first time in 1916 at the Battle of the Somme. Despite some difficulties in using them (e.g. they could get stuck in a swampy area), the British suffered 20 times less soldiers in this battle. British commanders considered it as a success and ordered more tanks. The British continued to improve the tanks, and thus the Mark IV tank was created. 400 Mark IV tanks were used in the Battle of Cambrai in 1918. In August 1918, the Allies managed to break the German defense at Amiens. This was helped by the British Panzer Corps with 300 Mark V tanks.

German A7V tanks also took part in World War I, but only 20 of them were built and they were not very functional, they did not play a major role in the war.



Little Willie – the first tank in the history.



Mark V tank

1. Assess whether the following sentences are true or false. Select the letter "T" for true sentences, and "F" - for false ones.

The first tank was constructed by the British who used the idea of Colonel Ernest Swinton.	T	F
The first prototype of the tank was very slow, but capable of traversing trenches and shooting ditches wider than 1.5m.	T	F
In order to confuse German intelligence, the first tanks were called 'tank' like a petrol tank.	T	F
The first tanks were equipped with primitive radio stations that allowed their crews to communicate in the field	T	F

2. List the advantages and disadvantages of the tanks used on the fronts of World War I.

Advantages	Disadvantages

3. Each text (1-3) should be assigned a battle fought during World War I - choose it from among those marked with letters A-D. In each row of the table, select the appropriate letter.

1. Mark IV tanks participated in this battle. Their large-scale use - 400 pieces - ultimately proved the usefulness of tanks on the battlefield for carrying out massive attacks.
2. The day of this battle was called the "black day" of the German army. It was attended by Mark V tanks from the British Armored Corps and prototypes of armored personnel carriers.
3. In this battle, Mark I tanks were used. Their task was to drive through no man's land, overcome the enemy's entanglements and trenches, and break the front. The plan failed, among others because only a small number of machines were used.

Tekst 1	A	B	C	D
Tekst 2	A	B	C	D
Tekst 3	A	B	C	D

A. battle of Somma  
B. battle of Amiens

C. battle of Ypres  
D. battle of Cambrai