**Woodrow Wilson's *Fourteen Points***

**Background Information**: In January 1918 at the conclusion of World War I President Woodrow Wilson gave his famous *Fourteen Points* speech to Congress. In his speech President Wilson described his ideas on how to maintain future peace and avoid another Great War. Wilson's *Fourteen Points* became the basis for a peace program and it was due these ideas that Germany and the other central powers agreed to an armistice (ceasefire) in November of that year. Below are President Wilson’s *Fourteen Points*:

1. No more secret agreements.

2. Free navigation of all seas.

3. An end to all economic barriers between countries.

4. Countries to reduce weapon numbers.

5. All decisions regarding the *colonies* should be impartial.

6. The German Army is to be removed from Russia. Russia should be left to develop her own political set-up.

7. Belgium should be independent like before the war.

8. France should be fully liberated and allowed to recover Alsace-Lorraine.

9. All Italians are to be allowed to live in Italy. Italy's borders are to be "along clearly recognizable lines of nationality."

10. Self-determination should be allowed for all those living in Austria-Hungary.

11. Self-determination and guarantees of independence should be allowed for the Balkan states.

12. The Turkish people should be governed by the Turkish government. Non-Turks in the old Turkish Empire should govern themselves.

13. An independent Poland should be created which should have access to the sea.

**14. A League of Nations should be set up to guarantee the political and territorial independence of all states.**

In regard to these essential rectifications of wrong and assertions of right we feel ourselves to be intimate partners of all the governments and peoples associated together against the Imperialists. We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.

For such arrangements and covenants we are willing to fight and to continue to fight until they are achieved; but only because we wish the right to prevail and desire a just and stable peace such as can be secured only by removing the chief provocations to war, which this program does remove. We have no jealousy of German greatness, and there is nothing in this program that impairs it. We grudge her no achievement or distinction of learning or of pacific enterprise such as have made her record very bright and very enviable. We do not wish to injure her or to block in any way her legitimate influence or power. We do not wish to fight her either with arms or with hostile arrangements of trade if she is willing to associate herself with us and the other peace- loving nations of the world in covenants of justice and law and fair dealing. We wish her only to accept a place of equality among the peoples of the world, -- the new world in which we now live, -- instead of a place of mastery.

**Responses:** Complete the prompts given and write in compete sentences (2 points per part).

**1.** List the top **three points** you think are most important to maintain peace. Why do you think these are the most important? Explain.

**2.** List the point you feel would *not* help maintain peace (and that you feel is **least important**). Why did you choose this point? Explain.

**3.** Define the term **self-determination.**

**a.** Why would President Wilson support self-determination of certain nations after the war? How would self-determination aid in the peace efforts?

**4. Google** **Alsace-Lorraine** in France. Where is this region located in France? Why would this region be an area of dispute for the France and Germany?