German Americans in WWI

**DIRECTIONS** Read the passage below. Then use what you learned in class plus your own research to answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

When World War I began, there were more than 8 million German Americans living in the United States, making them the largest immigrant group in the country. While some had only recently arrived in the U.S., others had been there since before the American Revolution.

Like many immigrants, German Americans embraced both their adoptive and native heritage and culture. They built close-knit communities and often spoke German on a regular basis. When the United States entered the war in 1917, however, German Americans were accused of disloyalty and persecuted due to their ethnic background.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What was life like for German Americans before World War I?
2. Why were German Americans considered disloyal to the United States during the war?
3. What were some of the ways German Americans were mistreated?
4. Do you think it was fair for German Americans to be mistrusted?
5. Can you think of similar types of prejudice in the United States today?