

Joining up for War - Village Heroes

This lesson has been piloted with a Year 5 class but can be adapted for use with other age groups.

Activity title:	Topic introduction and enlistment activity
Curriculum subject or area:	History, Drama, Literacy
NC objectives:	To show a developing understanding of the past To show an understanding about how lives were different in the past To understand significant roles of people during WW1 To develop empathy with people and events from the past
Main learning objective:	To gain an understanding about how men signed up for the war To develop empathy with the young men who signed up to war

Timing	Lesson plan ideas, activities and resource sheets needed
PRE-LESSON NOTES	This activity could be done at the very start as an introduction to your WW1 topic. Before the lesson, you will need to prepare a 'height' chart for children to measure themselves against and hand out various forms that they will need to complete for the 'joining-up' process. These are the Army Attestation Form, Army Medical Form, Army Form E624 and the Soldier's Oath. You will also need to give each of your class a brand new wartime name (use popular men's names from the era) which they may wish to adopt or refer back to throughout the topic.
MAIN ACTIVITY	All children will be given a new name and then fill out the Army Attestation Form in the role of this character. Children must then 'get in line' in the queue and wait to be called to the front of the line to be measured and undergo a health check using the Army Medical Form. and check age, address, and marital status, etc. Teacher - as Enlistment Officer and Medical Officer - must check and 'stamp' each form to make it official. The



	children should then take the Soldier's Oath and then should fill out Army form E624 (this was the form that permitted the Army to send soldiers overseas).
PLENARY	When all children have successfully 'signed up' for war, they could then think about how they might feel about the imminence of actually going to war. The drama lesson about 'feelings' follows on from this lesson.

