

What was life like for soldiers in World War I?

This lesson has been piloted with a Year 3 class but can be adapted as necessary to fit other age groups.

Activity title:	Research information to write a postcard from the soldiers in the trenches
Curriculum subject or area:	History, English
NC objectives:	History (2013) - KS2 1b, 2a, 2c, 3, 4a, 4b, 5b, 7 History (2014) - local history study, historical questions
Main learning objective:	To find out about life for soldiers in the trenches

Timing	Lesson plan ideas, activities and resource sheets needed
INTRODUCTION 5 - 10 minutes	Recap key dates and facts gathered in What can we find out about WWI Lesson . Use the National Archives' website videos. This one is about food, in a series of fourteen videos about different aspects of WWI: http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/the-great-war-stuff-your-pockets-with-lots-of-grub . What do these videos tell us about life for soldiers in the trenches?
MAIN ACTIVITY 20- 30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather together photographs and information from secondary sources. This can be from the books referenced in the What can we find out about WWI Lesson and information found at www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1. • Give out Life in the trenches: Postcard Planning Sheet and explain how the information can be sorted under the various headings. • Children then use the sources to note down facts about trench life. The National Archives' videos can be revisited and children can make notes whilst they are watching. The National Archives' videos with the tag WW1 can be found here: http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/tag/ww1/ • Children can work individually, in pairs or can be grouped so that each group finds information for each heading. Note that the sheet is better enlarged to A3 paper to allow greater room for the notes to be written.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midway through, stop the children and get them to move to a different table to share the information gathered. This new information can be added to the planning sheet. • Lower Ability children will need support in gathering the information. They could be given basic facts that they sort into the appropriate category.
<p>PLENARY 5 - 10 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather class together and share information. Explain that in the next session the information will be used to write a postcard.

Suggested extension activities or cross curricular links:

- DT project - design and make a trench out of a shoebox or cardboard box.