

POSTCARDS FROM THE FRONT

Activity title:	Postcards home from the trenches
Curriculum subject or area:	Literacy, History
NC objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write with empathy • To include a range of factual and made up information in writing • To experiment with presentation of writing for different audiences
Main learning objective:	To write postcards home from the trenches

Timing	Lesson plan ideas, activities and resource sheets needed
LESSON INFO	<i>This activity could be done over a few Literacy lessons and give children more time to think and edit their work</i>
INTRODUCTION	<p>Discuss the important role that letters and postcards played in raising morale during WW1 (<i>You could show some examples of letters that soldiers wrote home from the front line or information from WW1 diaries which could give your students some good ideas for what life might have been like for these soldiers</i>).</p> <p>Reading excerpts from Harry Drinkwater's memoirs gives some good details about life on the frontline: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2491760/Harry-Drinkwaters-lost-diary-Great-War.html</p> <p>It may also be possible to find some good examples from the National Archives: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/war-diaries-ww1.htm</p> <p>Model on the board a good example of a postcard home and take ideas from the children (see examples) - think about the things they might mention: the conditions in the trenches, they may ask how their family is and be keen</p>



	<p>to know what is going on at home.</p>
MAIN ACTIVITY	<p>Children are encouraged to write a postcard home from their wartime character.</p> <p>Encourage children to use correct punctuation and grammar and to use some interesting vocabulary.</p> <p>Could display useful words or phrases from previous lessons.</p>
PLENARY	<p>Get the children to share their work and good ideas with the class.</p> <p>When children are finished, encourage them to edit their work and then present the finished piece.</p> <p>Postcards can be written up in best for display - here is how you could make yours look authentic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea-staining paper or card works particularly well for making the postcards look old and worn. • It may also be possible to get some thick card from a local scrap store (Gloucestershire Resource Centre always has lots of mounting card for pictures which are a perfect size!). • Stamps can be photocopied from old envelopes and stuck on the postcards. • Print off war photographs of soldiers from the internet and use these to stick on the front of your postcards or other such war propaganda.