



## A soldier's diary

### Analysing text

**Discovery Education Espresso subscribers:** Watch the *WWI anniversary* video from our *First World War collection* (History 2) with your class and listen to the diary extract from Captain James Patterson, a soldier who served during WWI. Print the extract (found in the transcript) and analyse it with your class. What do they think Captain Patterson is writing about? How do they think he was feeling at the time of writing? Ask them to highlight words that tell us about his mood and his feelings.

### Write a diary

Ask children to imagine they are soldiers, living in the trenches.

Children could then write their own diary entries. They should explain how they are feeling, and what happened that day, as well as provide an account of what they can see, hear and smell.

Extend the task for more able pupils by asking them to write a letter home from the same soldier. What would be different to their diary entry? Who would they be writing to? What would people back home want to hear? What wouldn't they want to know?

### Present the diary

Have children read their diary entry to the class. Discuss and compare thoughts and ideas. Activities could include making an audio recording of their diary, adding background music, or presenting the written diary in an 'authentic' way, by tearing the edges or using cold tea to stain the pages.