



Life on the frontline and at home

Teaching the First World War

One of the challenges of teaching this topic is knowing how to handle difficult aspects such as death, loss and conflict, which it will inevitably raise. Teachers will need to exercise individual judgement when discussing these issues, and in making decisions about which aspects of the war to focus on. This topic may also raise questions from children about present-day conflicts and the issues around these. Be aware of any children who may become upset or distressed, particularly those with family members who are, or have been, in military service, or who have had experience of living in war-affected areas.

Soldiers

Find out whether any of the children have ancestors who fought in either of the world wars. Do their families have any old photos from the war years?

Do any of the children have parents or grandparents in the armed services currently or in the recent past? Do their families have experiences of other wars, old or recent? Ask them to share their memories and create a class display of photos, memorabilia and pupils' writing or artwork based on these recollections.

Discovery Education Espresso subscribers: Use the WWI factfile to create a timeline of key events leading up to, and during, the war. Locate the places mentioned on a map, and find out more about them.

Watch the *Life as a WWI soldier* video and discuss the conditions faced by soldiers. Use modelling clay, cardboard, twigs and pieces of wire to create a model of a trench. Improvise a scene in which soldiers complain about their meal, with increasingly unflattering descriptions of its contents.

Animals

Discovery Education Espresso subscribers: Use the image resources within our *First World War collection* (History 2) to discuss the importance of animals during WWI. Find out more about the Dickin Medal, awarded to animals for service during military conflict. Ask children to write a nomination letter for an animal which might have served in WWI, giving specific examples of tasks they might have

Life at home

Discovery Education Espresso subscribers: Use the video and image resources within our *First World War collection* (History 2) to investigate the life of women during the war. How did they cope with their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers being called up to fight?

What kinds of jobs were open to women for the first time? How were they treated? What changed for women after the war? Make a list of jobs or duties women performed before, during and after the war, and compare these to the current day.