

Children in the war

Analyse

Show pupils the image of three boys playing skittles.

Ask pupils who they think these children are, and what they are doing.

Use this image as inspiration for a creative writing piece about the children.



Investigate

Discuss some of the games and pastimes that were popular with children in WWI, such as hopscotch, soldiers, marbles, and pressing flowers. Try some of these in the classroom or the playground. What other toys did children play with during the war? How are these different from the toys they play with today? Ask pupils to research and present their findings.

Draw and label what a classroom would have looked like in WWI, e.g. blackboard, wooden benches, etc. Extend this to include other aspects of schooling. What sort of food would the children be given for school lunches? How did they get to and from school?

Compare

Find out more about the jobs that children did during the war. Examples could include queuing for food, weeding vegetable gardens - as part of the 'grow your own' movement, and looking after younger brothers and sisters.

If a hundred years from now, children were asked to investigate what the life of a child was like today, how do you think they would describe it? What games, foods, and objects would they write about? What sources would they use?