

GEOGRAPHY ACTIVITY TWO: TRENCH LOCATIONS – COMPARE AND CONTRAST

LINK TO MATHS ACTIVITY 4 AND 9, ART 5

Learning Objectives

- To learn about the location of the trenches;
- To learn about the soil types and geographical differences;
- To learn about the climate and the effect that it had on warfare;
- To present findings to the class.

Resources

- Buckets of Clay / Stones and Rocks / Bucket of Sand / Bucket of Earth (not essential)
- [Western Front Locations](#)
- [Galipoli](#)

Introduction

Introduce the concept of Trenches – information can be found in [Historical Context 10. Trenches](#) and explain that they were used on all fronts which presented many different challenges.

Locations of Trenches to research:

- Western Front
- Belgium (Flanders & Passchendale)
- France
 - Somme
 - Verdun
 - Nancy
- Germany
 - Alsace (now in France) – Vosges Mountains
- Africa
 - Kamerun (Cameroon)
- Ottoman Empire (now Turkey)
 - Gallipoli
- Macedonian Front
 - Salonika

MAIN TASKS

- I. Split the class up into groups and set each group the following tasks:
 - a. To research a given area where trenches were found, looking specifically at the following areas when doing the research:
 - i. Climate – is it hot or cold? What is the annual rainfall?
 - ii. The landscape – are the trenches located on the plains, in a mountainous region or by the sea?
 - iii. Type of soil – is it volcanic or does it have exposed rock? Or is the soil sandy, clay or peat based?

- iv. What was the land used for originally?
 - v. Are there plenty of natural resources in that area? What are they?
 - vi. Were there good transport links?
 - b. Discuss the findings as a group – what impact do students think that the above characteristics had on the design and building of the trenches? (If you have access to them, use the soil samples as an aid).
- 2. Present group research to the class.
- 3. Once everyone has presented their research, as a class compare the different locations.
 - a. What are the main differences?
 - b. Are there any areas that have the same geographical features?
 - c. Which area do you think was best for building trenches?