

ACTIVITY ONE: SOLDIER BIOGRAPHY RESEARCH TOOLKIT

LINK TO ENGLISH ACTIVITY I: WRITING A LETTER HOME

Learning Objectives

- To understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world;
- To use a method of historical enquiry to understand the process of using research to source information;
- To gain an insight into one soldier's experience of the First World War;
- To explore the context and perspective of how lives were changed by the War.

Resources

Trench Brothers On-line Tool Kit

Introduction

Each participating class will be given one or more soldiers to research. Information on these soldiers who fought with either the Indian Army, the British West Indies Regiment or who were black British soldiers, has been sourced for Trench Brothers by researchers Parmjit Singh and Stephen Bourne. The tool kit has been developed to offer both specific factual information about each soldier and contextual information about their backgrounds, some of which is specific and some more generic.

MAIN TASKS

1. Working singly or in pairs, follow the instructions on the tool kit to find out about your given soldier.
2. When an answer is correct it leads you to the next question. When it is incorrect, sometimes you will be given additional information. Some of the answers (whether correct or incorrect), lead you to further information where it says **Click Here**. This will either take you to information from the Trench Brothers Historical Context section, or to other sites with further illustrated or written references.
3. Some of the questions require you to use your initiative and prior knowledge to choose the correct answer. Some are open for you to guess at random.
4. When you have completed the process, you are given the option to PRINT your research so you can keep a complete copy of information which you can then use as your source for writing your letter home (English I), which you will then set to music.

Review

Discuss your findings. What did you learn about the soldier. Start to think about what their lives were like and how they might have felt about the experiences they went through. Do you feel you have got to know them better by undergoing the research process, than you would have done if you'd just read some information about them?

Extension

Write a factual account of their life, using your research.