

**ACTIVITY TWO: EXPLORING MEMORABILIA I (SMALL PACK OF ITEMS)****Learning Objectives**

- To explore methods of enquiry;
- To understand how evidence is used to make historical claims;
- To develop informed responses to historical information.

**Resources: Memorabilia Pack I**

- Diary of the war
- Set of picture postcards
- Booklet of souvenir photographs
- 'Help to win the war' poster
- Programme for a concert
- Enemy Landing poster (pink)
- 'The War Illustrated' magazine
- Medical Report
- Letter
- Patriotic Pledge Card
- Blue Air Raids Card
- Ticket
- Recruitment Poster (double sided)
- 2 sets of mini postcards (bound together)

**MAIN TASKS**

1. Share out the resources – you could put a selection on tables and ask students to select and then discuss several items in pairs. You could limit the amount of time devoted to each item so that students learn to analyse and discuss from first impressions, or give them longer to see how much can be gleaned from small amounts of materials.
2. Use the following Discussion Questions or prompts to help investigate fully (also available as a worksheet for written responses.)

**Memorabilia Discussion Questions**

1. Diary of the war
  - What sort of information does this diary have in it?
  - Some of the information is in bold. What sort of information is this? Why do you think it is bold?
  - Who created this diary?
  - Why do you think a diary like this was created?

2. Set of picture postcards
  - What can you see in the postcards?
  - Who do you think sent these postcards? Who received them?
  - Look at the postcard with the three soldiers in the trench. What are they talking about? Why do you think they are talking about this? How do you think they are feeling?
  - Look at the black and white postcard with a tank in it. What are the people doing? Why do you think so many people are here?
  - Look at the postcard with the man smoking and dreaming. What is he dreaming about? How do you think he feels? Look at the song at the bottom. What do you think 'dear old Blighty' means?
  - Look at the postcard with the cook on. What do you think this postcard is about? Who is Kitchener? Who is the Kaiser? The postcard is based in the phrase 'to cook someone's goose'. Do you have any idea what this means? Can you make a guess based on the picture?
  
3. Booklet of souvenir photographs
  - What can you see in the photographs?
  - Why do you think this booklet was produced? Why would British people want to see these photos?
  - How do you think a British person would feel when they looked at these photos?
  
4. 'Help to win the war' poster
  - What is this poster about?
  - Who would have produced this poster?
  - Why was this poster needed?
  - Look at the lessons and dishes. Do you know what all these foods are? Do you think you would have liked to eat this food?
  
5. Programme for a concert
  - Who was this concert for?
  - Where did the concert take place?
  - What kind of entertainment was in the concert?
  - Why do you think concerts like this were needed?
  - What is being advertised on the back of the programme and why?
  
6. Pink poster with instructions about what to do in the event of an enemy landing
  - What is this poster about?
  - Who would have produced it?
  - Why was it needed?
  - Look at the 'people' section. What should people do? What are they not allowed to do?
  - Look at the 'transport' section. What would happen to people's cars?
  - Look at the 'tools' section. Do you know what all these tools are? What did people need to do with them? Why did the military want them do you think?

7. 'The War illustrated' magazine

- How much did this magazine cost?
- Look through the magazine at the titles of the articles. Do you think the magazine is positive or negative about Britain in the war?
- Have a look at the pictures. What type of pictures are they? What can you see in them?
- These are official pictures. Why do you think they were needed?
- How do you think they would have made people in Britain feel?

8. Medical report

- Who is this medical report for? What do you know about this man?
- What happened to him?
- Where was he when he was hurt?

9. Letter

- When was this letter written?
- What is the letter about?
- What had happened to the person in the letter?
- Who wrote the letter?

10. Patriotic Pledge Card

- Every soldier had to sign this card. What is he promising to do?
- Why do you think the soldiers had to promise this?

11. Blue Air Raids card

- What is an air raid?
- What did the people who worked here need to do if they heard the air raid sirens?
- What are they told NOT to do?
- On the back, the employees are told 'ABOVE ALL, KEEP COOL'. What does this mean?
- How do you think people would have felt when they heard an air raid siren?

12. Ticket

- Where was this ticket from and to?
- Who was the ticket for?
- How much did it cost? Why do you think this was?

13. Recruitment poster (double sided)

- Look at the poster for recruiting soldiers. What words can you think of to describe the soldiers in this picture? Why is there a flag next to them? The men at the bottom are looking upwards at the soldiers. Why do you think this is?
- Look at the women's poster. What is this poster for? What are the women doing in the picture? Would women have done this kind of work before the war? How do you think the women in the picture are feeling?

#### 14. 2 sets of minis postcards

- Look at the Yellow pack. Look at the black and white photographs. What can you see in the pictures? What do you think it would have been like in the aeroplane? How about in the trench? How easy do you think it would have been to fire those guns? What would it have been like dragging it over the battlefield? Look at the posters. How do they make you feel? How do you think they would have made a man feel during the war?
- Look at the Orange pack. What can you see? What are the horses doing in the bottom picture? Look at the posters. How do they make you feel? How do you think they would have made a man feel during the war?

#### **Review**

Ask students to select one item and share their responses with the rest of the class. Does everyone agree with their findings or are the responses open to interpretation? What does this say about history? Discuss the complexity of objectivity and subjectivity over historical events, materials and experiences.