

**ACTIVITY EIGHT: TRENCH RATIONS**

**Learning objective**

To be able to perform mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers (Year 6 – Number)

**Prior learning**

Students should be able to divide by 50 by dividing by 5 and then 10. If students struggle with the mental calculation, they could use calculators for this activity.

**Resources:**

Trench Rations Worksheet

**Introduction:**

Ask students what they think men ate at the Front. Look at [Historical Context Chapter 11 Food](#).

**MAIN TASKS:**

1. You have been put in charge of trench rations for a platoon of 50 men. It's your task to make sure the rations are distributed fairly. Calculate how much each man should get each day.

Foodstuff	Total amount for one day	Ration per soldier
Fresh meat	50kg	
Bread	25kg	
Biscuit	25kg	
Bacon	5kg	
Cheese	5kg	
Fresh vegetables	10kg	
Dried vegetables	2.5kg	
Tea	1kg	
Jam	2.5kg	
Sugar	5kg	
Mustard	50g	
Pepper	50g	
Condensed milk	25kg	
Rice	1kg	
Oatmeal	1kg	

**Ideas for differentiation**

**Lower attainers:**

The numbers could be simplified for this activity but would need to still resemble historically accurate amounts!

**Higher attainers:**

5 of your soldiers are ill and nurse says they need more fresh food to help them recover  
 5 of your soldiers have the flu and can't eat anything  
 Your lieutenant has instructed you to give him double sugar and condensed milk rations.  
 How much does each soldier get now?

**Review**

Discuss this quote: 'As lieutenant, I deserve more food. I have the great responsibility of looking after all the troops. Unless I am fit and healthy, they will all perish!'