

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITY TWO: SIDE BY SIDE - THE IMPACT OF MULTI-FAITHS IN WAR

Learning Objectives

- To explore different observances and practices of different religions and the complexity of following them on the battlefield;
- To examine the impact of encountering different faiths for soldiers in the First World War.

MAIN TASKS

1. Look at the effect religious observance can have on day to day life thinking about prayer rituals, diet, religious festivals, codes of behaviour etc.
2. Make a chart comparing the different observances each of the main 5 religions fighting in the Trenches would have needed to observe.
3. How easy or feasible would it have been to keep to these rules for someone very religious? What sort of compromises might soldiers have had to make?
4. In the Indian Army alone, soldiers came from at least three different religions: Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism. The army would have been the first place many men encountered people from other religions, particularly those travelling from different countries. In today's multi-cultural society we are completely used to living side by side with people from different faiths. What sort of questions might you have wanted to ask someone you met from another religion a hundred years ago?

Extension

Look at [Historical Context II Food](#) and the complexity of catering for different religious diets. Given the scarcity of provisions, how do you think the Army cooks planned their menus to suit everyone?!