WWI REMEMBRANCE

SCHEME OF WORK

SUITABLE FOR AGES 5 – 16

This short scheme of work aims to personalise local soldiers lost during the First World War and encourage pupils to engage with the historical impact that loss had on families and communities. Ideally it will culminate in an exhibition of work either in classrooms or the school hall/corridors.

This document provides an outline for the scheme of work which can be tailored by teachers for specific numbers, ages and abilities. The original scheme of work involved more than 400 pupils from Gwladys Street Primary School in Walton.

PREPARATION

There are three possible ways to prepare for this scheme of work. Choose the most realistic option for your school:

1. Identify a local Church or record office with a Roll of Honour, listing the names of local people who died during WWI. A teacher can liaise with the Church to arrange a visit for pupils to view the Roll of Honour. Each pupil chooses a name that they wish to work with.

2. If a school visit is not possible, a teacher can visit the church and take down the names on the Roll of Honour. These names can be distributed during lesson time.

3. If there is no Roll of Honour available locally pupils can select a soldier from John Moores University’s Merseyside at War website: www.merseyside-at-war.org/people

Teachers should encourage pupils to keep their research local, perhaps choosing a soldier from their own street or area or who shares the same surname.
LESSON 1: RESEARCH

AGE 11+ (UNDER 11’S SKIP TO LESSON 2), 1 HOUR, ICT/ HISTORY

Resources

Computers and internet access

Chosen names from the local roll of honour or the Merseyside at War website

Method

Starting with their soldier’s name pupils use the following web resources to discover as much as possible about their chosen soldier. There will inevitably be more information on some soldiers than others.

As well as getting a sense of who this person was, pupils should be encouraged to find out about the time in which he lived.

www.merseyside-at-war.org
www.historypin.org
www.forces-war-records.co.uk
www.ancestry.co.uk/WW1

Or you may wish to use our existing digital roll of honour for Walton: www.markingthedaysww1.tumblr.com

Once pupils have built up an idea of who their soldier was they can engage with lesson 2.

LESSON 2: PORTRAIT OF A SOLDIER

ALL AGES, 1-2 HOURS, ART

This is an exercise in imagination designed to encourage children to think of their soldier as a real person, not a faceless number or a historical fiction. The more pupils involved the better.

The aim is not for perfect artistic representations and the medium can be adjusted according to age and ability. Encourage pupils to think about things like clothing, hairstyle, and age.

Resources

Each pupil needs the name of their chosen soldier and if possible his age and the date of his death.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Pens</th>
<th>Pencils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
<td>Glue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue paper</td>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>Other arts and crafts materials</td>
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Method

Teachers can choose their desired medium for this activity. It could be pencil sketch, painting, collage or drawing. Keeping portraits a uniform size (e.g. A4) will help with the impact if portraits are to be displayed together.

Each pupil makes a head and shoulders portrait of how they imagine their soldier would have looked.

The name of their soldier is written at the top of the paper and the date of his death at the bottom right hand corner.

The portraits could be displayed together in the school hall or corridors or as part of a special exhibition.
LESSON 3: POPPIES
ALL AGES, 1 HOUR, ART

This final session could be delivered close to Remembrance Sunday, as part of the school’s remembrance activities.

Resources
Origami or tissue paper squares in reds and oranges
Thin black and green card
Green Pipe Cleaners
Scissors
Glue/ tape for re-enforcing

Method
Each pupil makes a poppy for their soldier. As with the portraits, teachers may choose their own artistic method. Below we have given instructions on how to make a simple red poppy, but in the original project we also used finger painting, embroidery and collage.

Once their poppy is complete pupils should write the name of their soldier on the leaf and attach it by folding it around the stem and gluing or taping it.

Poppies can be displayed alongside portraits for maximum impact.

POPPY MAKING INSTRUCTIONS
1. Take a square of red paper, fold it over to form a triangle

2. Fold the triangle in half twice again

3. Cut a curve on the outside edge of the folded triangle. Be sure to cut through all the layers
First World War Remembrance Scheme of Work
Originally part of ‘Marking the Days’ – a collaboration between The Suitcase Ensemble and St Luke The Evangelist Church, Walton. Funded by Liverpool City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England

4. Open out and you will have a poppy shape
5. Cut a small hole in the centre of the shape and feed the end of the green pipe cleaner into it
6. Fold or tie a knot in the end of the pipe cleaner, at the centre of the flower, to secure it. This is your poppy stem.
7. Scrunch up your poppy petals and arrange them as you like.
8. Put a dab of glue at the base of your poppy where the pipe cleaner goes through just for extra security
9. Children can add their soldier’s name to the poppy in whatever way they like. Here are some suggestions:
   - Write the name on the petals before adding them to the stem
   - Write the name on a florist’s ribbon and tie to the stem
   - Write the name on a circle of black card and add it to the centre of the flower
   - Write the name on a sticky label and stick it to the stem
   - Write the name on a brown postage label and tie it to the stem


Take a look at the above link for a video of how to make a red poppy

EXHIBITION IDEAS

We hope you and your pupils have enjoyed this short scheme of work. If you have any photos of your exhibition we would love to see them! Send them to beth@suitcase-ensemble.com or tweet them @suitcaseensemble #markingthedays

For more information on The Suitcase Ensemble visit: www.suitcase-ensemble.com