

LEICESTER ARTS & MUSEUMS SERVICE

WORLD WAR ONE

DEFINITIONS

Fighting for?
ENLIST NOW



ARMED
1914

"WANTS
YOU"



YOUR COUNTRY'S



YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY
SAVE THE KING

[ACTIVITY PACK FOR 11-16 YEARS]

WORLD WAR ONE

INTRODUCTION

This resource pack is to help you find your way through the World War One displays at **Newarke Houses Museum** and, hopefully, to make learning about a harrowing part of history a little more fun.

Included in the pack are activities to do in the museum and back in the classroom.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE PACK:

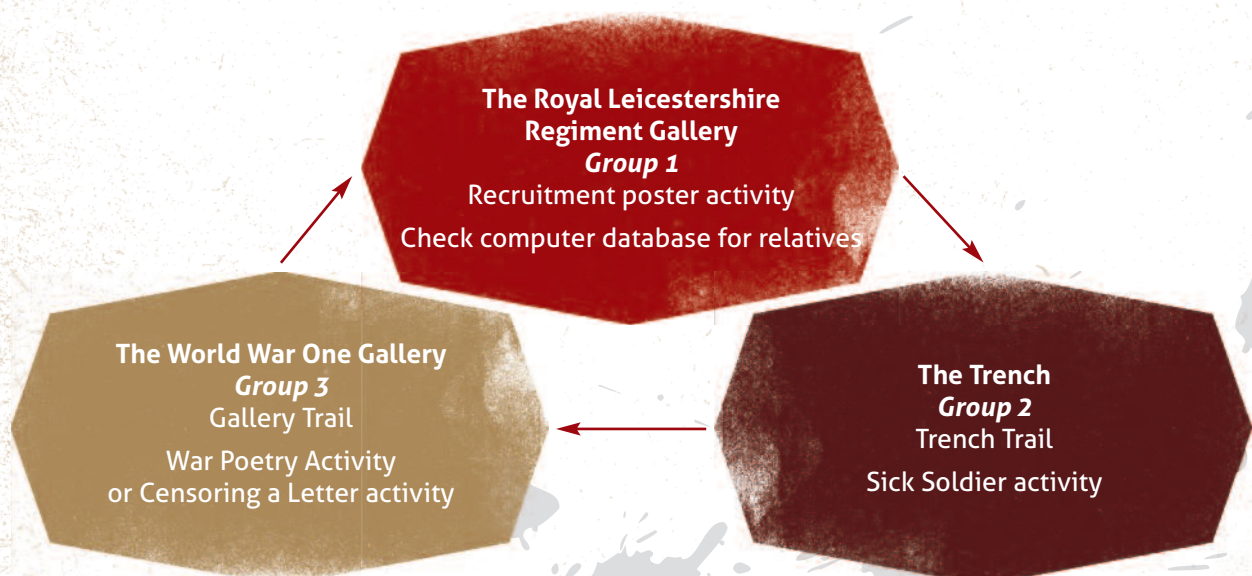
1. Facts and Figures
2. Gallery Trail
3. Trench Trail
4. Sick Soldier activity
5. Censoring a Letter activity
6. War Poetry activity
7. Trench note paper
8. Recruitment Poster activity
- teacher's notes
9. Recruitment Poster activity
- answers
10. Making a Periscope
11. Periscope Template

Trail answers are available to collect from the museum's reception.

It might be best to organise your class visit as a rotation.

HERE'S A SUGGESTION:

Let everyone walk through The Trench to 'soak up the atmosphere' then divide the class in to three groups as follows:



WORLD WAR ONE

FACTS AND FIGURES

THE POLITICS BEHIND 'THE GREAT WAR' ARE COMPLEX BUT THE 'TRIGGER' WAS THE ASSASSINATION ON 28TH JUNE 1914 OF ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND OF AUSTRIA BY GAVRILO PRINCIP, A BOSNIAN SERB.

ON 28TH JULY 1914, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY DECLARED WAR ON SERBIA

GREAT BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY AFTER THE INVASION OF BELGIUM

MANY THOUGHT THE WAR WOULD BE 'OVER BY CHRISTMAS.'

A SENSE OF DUTY, A DESIRE FOR ADVENTURE AND A FEAR OF 'SHAME' LED MANY YOUNG MEN TO VOLUNTEER. BY JANUARY 1916, 2.6 MILLION BRITISH MEN HAD 'JOINED UP.'

IN THE TRENCHES, THEY FOUND COLD, DAMP AND FILTHY CONDITIONS, DISEASE (E.G. TRENCH FOOT AND TRENCH FEVER, WHICH WAS CAUSED BY LICE), POOR QUALITY FOOD, THE 'PSYCHOLOGICAL' TORTURE OF BOMBARDMENT (THEN CALLED SHELL SHOCK) AND THE DANGERS OF ATTACK AND 'GOING OVER THE TOP.'

HEAVY ARTILLERY, MACHINE GUNS (THE GERMAN MAXIM GUN AT THE MUSEUM FIRED 600 ROUNDS A MINUTE) BARBED WIRE 'ENTANGLEMENTS', POISON GAS (1915) AND TANKS (1916) LED TO ENORMOUS LOSS OF LIFE. AT THE SOMME IN 1916, THERE WERE 58,000 BRITISH CASUALTIES ON THE FIRST DAY.

ON 9TH FEBRUARY 1916, CONSCRIPTION WAS INTRODUCED

1.9 MILLION MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 41 WERE 'CALLED UP' BRINGING THE TOTAL OF BRITISH SERVICEMEN TO 4.5 MILLION, WITH A FURTHER 3 MILLION MEN FROM THE EMPIRE

BATTLES MENTIONED IN THE GALLERIES ARE: FESTUBERT (1915) NEUVE CHAPELLE (1915) THE SOMME (1916) CAMBRAI (1917) ALL IN NORTHERN FRANCE, AND PASSCHENDALE (1917) IN BELGIUM

'THE TRENCH' IN THE MUSEUM IS A RECONSTRUCTION OF AN ALLIED TRENCH FACING THE HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT, A GERMAN DEFENSIVE POSITION, AT THE BATTLE OF LOOS IN 1915

THE WAR 'SPREAD' THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND WAS FOUGHT ON SEA AND IN THE AIR

EVENTUALLY, AFTER ALLIED ADVANCES ON THE WESTERN FRONT, AN ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED ON 11TH NOVEMBER 1918, FOLLOWED BY THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES ON 28TH JUNE 1919

THE WAR WAS OVER BUT ABOUT 10 MILLION MILITARY PERSONNEL HAD DIED, INCLUDING 750,000 FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND 200,000 FROM THE EMPIRE.

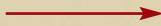
ANOTHER 20 MILLION WERE WOUNDED, INCLUDING 1.6 MILLION FROM THE BRITISH ARMY

WORLD WAR ONE

GALLERY TRAIL



Find the German Maxim gun at the beginning of the trench and start the trail here



1. Find this helmet
What caused this hole?



2. Can you find out what this tool would have been used for?

Write your answer here:



3. Find the dog called 'Rats'.
Why did soldiers keep dogs in the trenches?



4. What is this object called?
What was it used for?

5. Soldiers had to do their own washing, sewing and mending.

What did they call this sewing kit?



6. To pass the time in the trenches, some soldiers made 'trench art'
What has this bullet been made in to?

Find Eric Pochin's photograph album and look at the intricate drawings in Walter Anson's sketchbook.



7. Who did this tunic belong to?
Which organisation did the owner of this tunic belong to?
What did the organisation do during the war?



8. Children were encouraged to raise money and send gifts to troops to show support.

What was this bag used for?



WORLD WAR ONE

TRENCH TRAIL

EXPLORE THE TRENCH AND THE DUGOUT.

1. At the entrance to the trench read the information about the four soldiers below.

You will discover the fate of these soldiers as you exit the trench.



2. As you walk through the trench look for this notice: 'Watch Out For Trench Foot'.

What do you think 'trench foot' is?

What would have caused it?

.....

.....

3. Look through the periscope.

Why was it better to look through this than to lift your head up above the trench?

.....

.....

4. Can you see the sandbags?

What were they used for?

.....

.....

5. Find the word 'bandoliers' on wooden boxes?

What do you think bandoliers are?

.....

.....

6. Enter the dugout and look for the sign that says 'Lice About.'

What are lice?

Why would they have been a problem?

.....

.....

The Leicester Tigers is the nickname for The Royal Leicester Regiment. The 'Tigers' were Leicester's Regiment from 1688 - 1964. They fought in many campaigns across the world including World War One and World War Two.

WORLD WAR ONE

TRENCH TRAIL CONTD

7. Why do you think it would have been smelly in the trench?

Write down 3 different smells soldiers would experience.

The 'Life in the Trenches' file in the dugout (page 3) might help.

.....

.....

8. Look for the tin can in the trench.

Fresh food was difficult to get and most food was eaten cold. Tinned corned beef was popular. What did the soldiers call this? (Clue – look in the 'Life in the Trenches' file in the dugout for the answer).

.....

.....



Lance
Corporal
Edward
Chapman

9. What happened to the four soldiers listed at the beginning of the trail?

.....

.....



Private
Francis
William
Jelley

.....

.....



Second
Lieutenant
Joseph
Emmerson

.....

.....



Captain
Charles
Knighton

.....

.....

WORLD WAR ONE

SICK SOLDIER ACTIVITY

This soldier has spent too long on the frontline and is feeling physically and mentally ill.

What is he suffering from and what are the signs of illness?

One box is filled in for you. Now fill in: Trench foot, Lice and Trench fever (clues can be found in the trench and dugout).

LICE:

TRENCH FEVER:

DYSENTERY:

dysentery caused by germs in the trench, bad food and dirty water. Signs: stomach pains, sickness and diarrhoea.

TRENCH FOOT:

FACTS

Living conditions in the frontline trenches were grim. Eating cold food surrounded by rats and decaying bodies, covered in lice and sometimes up to their waists in dirty water, soldiers suffered from all kinds of diseases.



WORLD WAR ONE

SOLDIERS IN THE TRENCHES USED TO WRITE HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES.

Soldiers in the trenches used to write home to their families. Every week about 12 million letters and postcards were sent.

There were some things they were not allowed to write about and officers would check letters before they were posted.

They couldn't write about anything that might help the enemy, like movement of soldiers and plans to attack. They couldn't complain a lot about life in the trenches or tell people about battle plans that had gone wrong in case people at home started to grumble about the war.

Read this letter and pretend to be an officer - cross out anything the soldier is not allowed to say.

This is part of a letter written by Private Arthur Trolley. If you find the black flipbook in the World War One Gallery, you can read all of his letters.

Dear Mother and Dad,

Just a few more lines to let you know that I am still quite alright.

We are still in a barn but of course we may be moved at any moment.

It is a lot better than the other barn we was in because during the night it was nothing to have a few rats run over you. Still we soon get used to them and we take no notice.... I got Lucy's parcel quite alright....

How is Gladys, is she getting on well at school?....

Well, I will be closing now and I hope that Dad has plenty of work because I shall be glad when I get back to it again. Still we must keep cheerful, the war is bound to be over someday....

Sadly, Private Trolley was killed the next day.

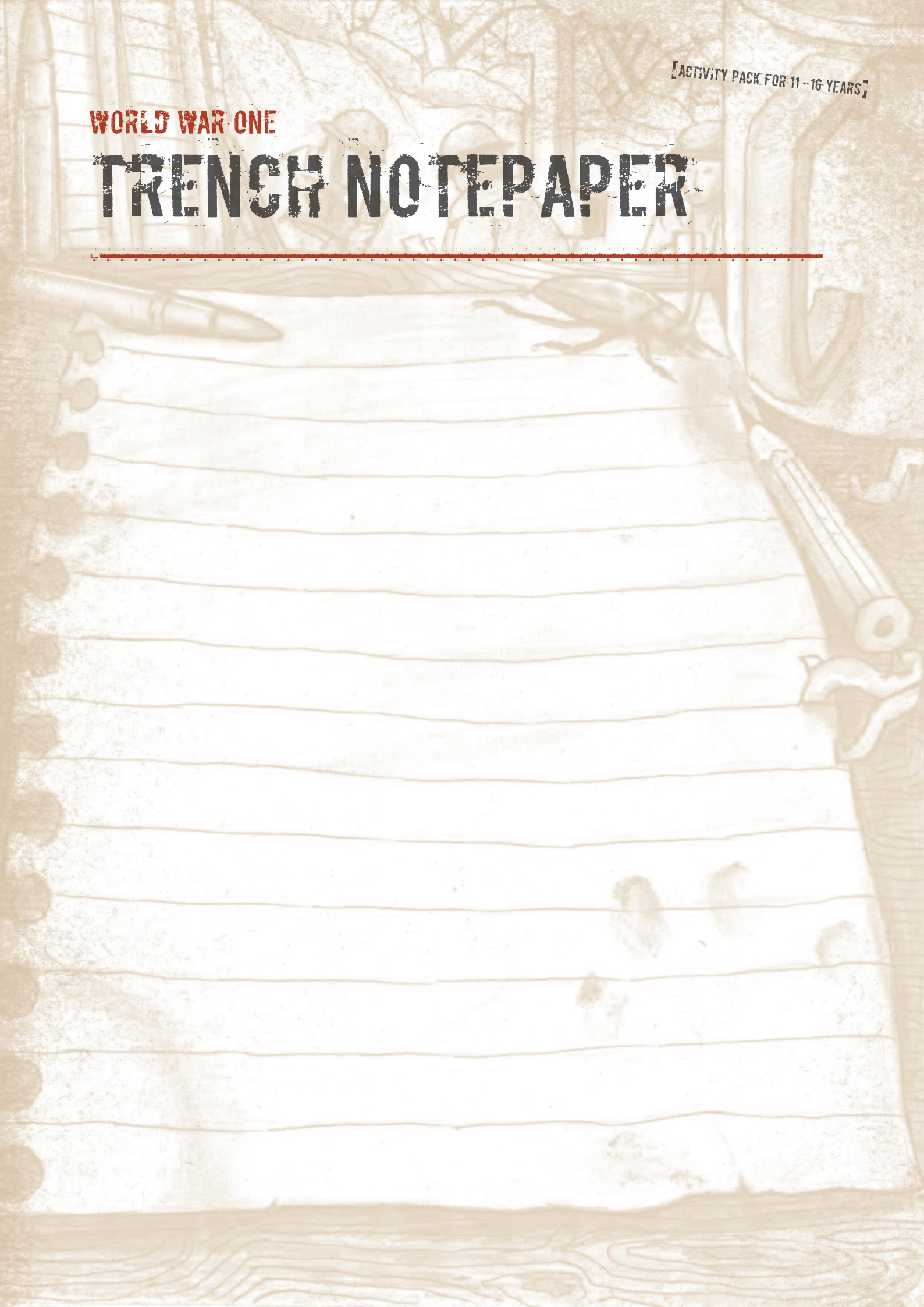
Now write your own letter on the trench notepaper. Be careful what you write about.

8th October 1915
Dear Mother and Dad
Just a note to let you know that I'm alright but everyone is grumbling here! It's raining all the time and I can't get dry. The food is terrible! Yesterday there were maggots in my corned beef! How's Tom doing at school? Has the cat had her kittens yet? The sergeant says our big guns will stop firing on Saturday morning so we might be attacking the German trenches. I hope not. We're almost out of toilet paper again. Please send some in your next parcel. You know, the way things are going, the Germans will win this war so we might as well come home. Anyway, I'll keep my head down!
your loving son
Jack.

[ACTIVITY PACK FOR 11-16 YEARS]

WORLD WAR ONE

TRENCH NOTEPAPER



WORLD WAR ONE

WAR POETRY ACTIVITY

This is a poem by Arthur Newberry Choyce, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment's official war poet.

You can find a display about him in the WW1 gallery.

Attack At Dawn
Evening sky
With gold and carmine glowing.
Roaring still
The guns that never rest.
And I -
Stifling one wild aching in my breast
For every flower that's growing
Upon a homeland hill.
And at the dawn will come
Death
To write a roll of fame
Where crimson blood is flowing ;
While I look on with half-held breath
And think of Autumn fields at home
Where poppies are aflame -
And wonder will he write my name.

He fought in several battles on The Western Front and in 1917 he was wounded.

After the war he toured America, reading his poems and telling people about life in the trenches.

In this poem, he shows a love for natural things, the sunset, flowers, the fields - and he feels homesick....

It's the evening before an attack and he knows that in the morning, people will die and wonders if it will be his turn!

On the trench notepaper, write a short poem about life in the trenches. It could be about an attack or just day to day life but try to imagine how it would feel to be one of the soldiers involved.

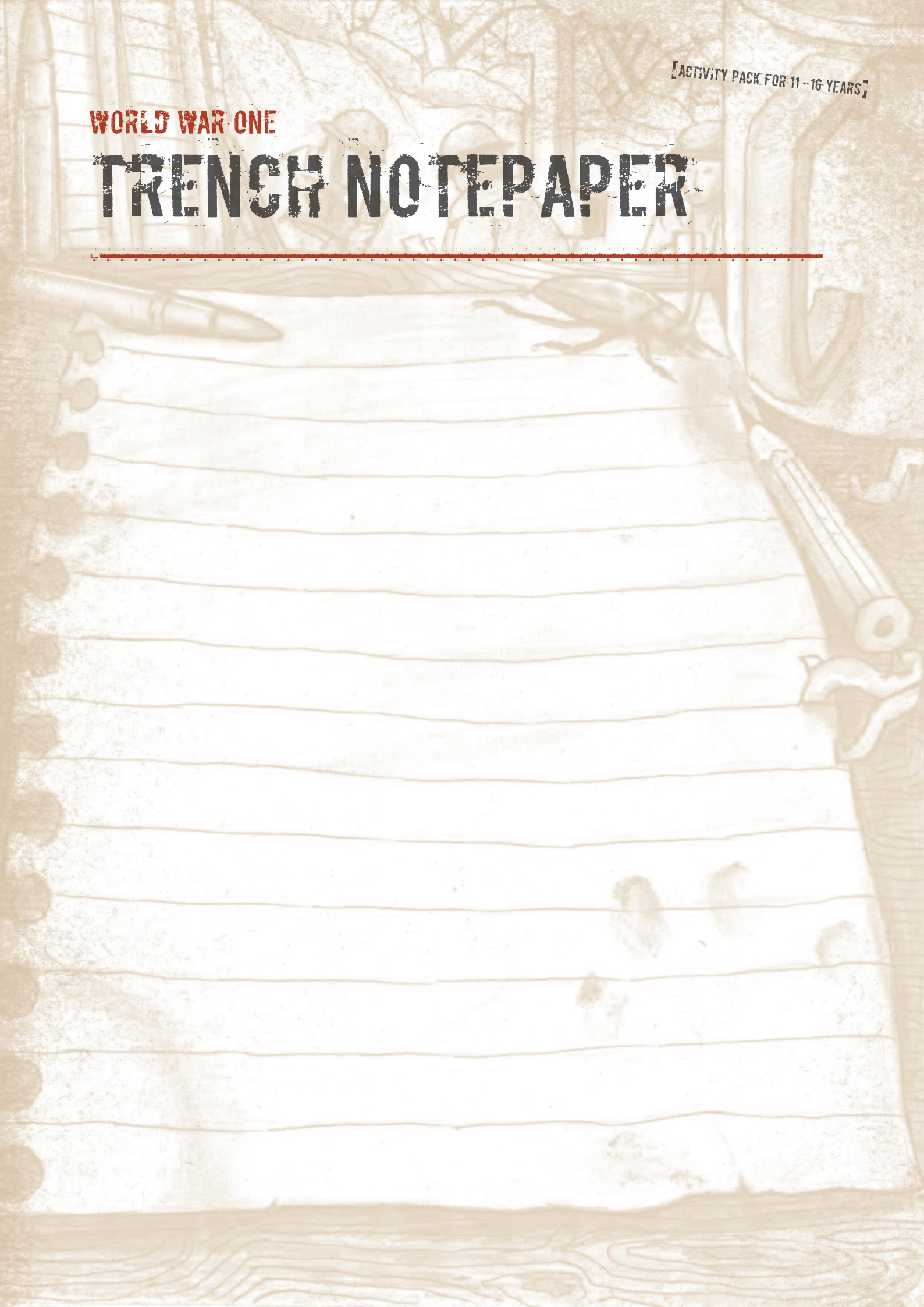
Your poem doesn't have to rhyme but try to choose words that have sounds that fit in with the feeling of the soldiers. e.g. If you want to express sadness, choose dull, 'heavy' words like mud, ache, old, trudge, fall, rain, sludge, mound, wade, roll.

If you want to express excitement or danger, choose 'sharp' action words like fire, flash, bright, shoot, jump, explode, shout, grab.

[ACTIVITY PACK FOR 11-16 YEARS]

WORLD WAR ONE

TRENCH NOTEPAPER



WORLD WAR ONE

RECRUITMENT POSTER ACTIVITY TEACHER'S NOTES

In The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Gallery, find this recruitment poster

Millions of men 'came forward' but more than a third were found unfit due to the effects of malnutrition and poor living conditions. After the great loss of life on The Western Front, the government organised propaganda campaigns to recruit more men and eventually introduced conscription in February 1916.

Group Activity:

Ask the children what message The Veteran's Farewell is trying to convey.
What is it appealing to in young men?

You could point out?

- the noble bearing of the sergeant
- the recruits from all walks of life
- the warm but dignified 'embrace' of the old soldier
- the proud expression of the healthy young soldier - one day *he* might be an honoured veteran

Now show the children four more recruitment posters - available at the museum as laminated copies.

As a group they should:

a) match the labels to the posters – labels are also available.

b) decide which posters were the most and least effective at persuading men to enlist.



INFORMATION FOR THE GROUP:

At the start of the war, military service was voluntary.
Men 'joined up' for a variety of reasons including:

- To get out of poverty - the army paid a regular wage.
- To see the world (an adventure). Many had never been away from home.
- To be with their mates - the army introduced 'pals battalions'.
- To serve their country - nationalism was strong at the time.
- To take revenge for German atrocities in neutral Belgium.
- To help stop the German advance ('do their bit')

WORLD WAR ONE

RECRUITMENT POSTER ACTIVITY ANSWERS

1. You should be proud to be a Briton.
2. You are important to your country and your king.
3. We want you (you are worth having).

This is Field Marshal Herbert Kitchener, a famous British officer and Secretary of State for War. He thought the war would last at least 3 years.

This was the most influential poster.



1. Your country belongs to you;
2. Your country is beautiful and needs you to protect it.
3. The enemy will steal or spoil your country.

This was the least effective poster.

1. This poster is trying to persuade women to persuade men.
2. It might be hard to let go but it's good to put your country first.
3. You should be proud of the men.

As well as encouraging men, women supported the war effort by raising money, joining women's groups like the Women's Volunteer Reserve, working in hospitals, making weapons and training soldiers in signalling.



1. Don't you want your children to be proud of you?
2. Won't you feel guilty every time someone asks what you did?
3. Other men are doing their duty. Should you stay safely at home?

This poster exploits the loving relationship between a father and his children and creates a terrible dilemma: If I don't go, my children won't respect me. If I go, they might lose their father!

WORLD WAR ONE

MAKING A PERISCOPE

Periscopes are optical instruments and are used to see things beyond the line of vision.

In the trenches they were used to see around corners and over walls so soldiers did not have to expose their head to the enemy. They could spy on the enemy and not be seen.

A periscope uses mirrors to reflect the light from the object around the corner and into your eye.

Read the true story below to find out why it was dangerous to lift your head above the trench.

MY GRANDFATHER FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY!

His friend wasn't feeling well and my grandfather offered to do night sentry duty for him (he also wanted to try out his friend's new rifle).

A German sniper was being a nuisance by shooting the sandbags at the top of the trench and sand was pouring onto the men below. My grandfather decided to have a shot at this sniper and stood up on the firing step.

He saw the flash of the sniper's gun and fired at it but another German sniper was watching and fired at the flash of my grandfather's rifle. The bullet hit the magazine, which exploded in my grandfather's face!

My grandfather lost his eye but he was sent home. As a boy, I remember seeing his glass eye watching me from a glass of water by his bed!



This is a replica First World War periscope in The Trench at Newark Houses Museum.

WORLD WAR ONE MAKING A PERISCOPE

[ACTIVITY PACK FOR 11-16 YEARS]

Print onto thin card
Cut along all solid lines and score
along all dotted lines before
valley folding

