



Young Heritage Hunters

Researching World War One in Milton Keynes Teachers' Pack



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Introduction

Young Heritage Hunters was a 12-month education project to encourage students to explore their local heritage. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Throughout the project we worked with several schools and community groups to encourage students, families and the wider community to explore the past heritage of this new city. The project is led by Milton Keynes Heritage Association (MKHA) which was set up in 1994 when a group of local history groups came together with the aim of encouraging and developing co-operation between organisations which have an interest in Milton Keynes' Heritage. MKHA has around 60 members with a wide range of historical and heritage involvement. You can explore MKHA's website [here](#).

Young Heritage Hunters worked with students from Milton Keynes Academy to explore the impact of World War 1 on the local area. The work carried out on these projects forms the basis of this information pack.

Curriculum Links

1. QCA Schemes of Work

History Key Stage 1 & 2	Unit 17: What are we remembering on Remembrance Day – whom do we remember?
History Key Stage 3	Unit 18: Hot war, cold war: why did the major twentieth-century conflicts affect so many people?
History Key Stage 3	Conflict in the modern world The war to end all wars, 1914-1919.
GCSE 2012 Edexcel	Option 1c: The changing nature of warfare Option 3c: The Impact of War on Britain c1914-1950

2. Primary National Curriculum until 2014 – Statutory areas of study

The government is in the process of changing the National Curriculum. The curriculum information below has been taken from the interim School Curriculum shown on the **Department for Education website** published 28 November 2011.

Key Stage 2: Local History Study

This is a study investigating how an aspect in the local area has changed over a long time. This could include how the locality was affected by a significant national or local event or development or by the work of a significant individual.

3. The New History Curriculum (draft)

In the New Year the coalition government unveiled its new draft curriculum for history. It has been outlined on the **Historical Association website** February 2013. World War 1 links to the new curriculum as follows:

Key Stage 3	The First World War including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key events • conscription • trench warfare
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Milton Keynes and World War One

Milton Keynes did not exist as a unified city until 1967. However a number of towns and villages which became part of Milton Keynes were impacted by World War 1. War Memorials can be found in:

Bletchley	(Old)Bradwell	Broughton
Calverton	Castlethorpe	Fenny Stratford
Hanslope	Haversham	Little Linford
Lavendon	Loughton	Middleton (Milton Keynes Village)
New Bradwell	Newport Pagnell	North Crawley
Old Wolverton	Olney	Shenley Church End
Simpson	Stony Stratford	Wavendon
Willen	Woburn Sands	Wolverton
Woolstone	Woughton on the Green	

Buckinghamshire Remembers : This website has details and pictures of the War Memorials in the areas listed above. Often there is background information on those named on the war memorial which details date of birth, rank and other known information. There are also sometimes pictures.

Researching Milton Keynes during World War 1

There are many sources of information to help students build up a picture of what life was like at home and at the Front during World War 1, including a number of books.

Local Resources:

Newspapers from 1914-1918 – At Milton Keynes Central Library, the Local Studies Library has microfiche machines where you can view newspapers from the last 300 years. Looking at newspapers published during the war will give insights into how the local area was affected.

Days of Pride : The website examines the impact that World War 1 had on the communities of Wolverton and New Bradwell. There is information about life on the Front and back at home using eye-witness accounts and documents.

Your Loving Brother Albert : The website has transcripts of letters written by Albert French. They give an insight into training and living conditions on the Front. The letters were written by a 16-year old who ran away to enlist. They were discovered in a second-hand furniture store in 1975.

Living Archive : The website has digital documents and interviews exploring life during World War 1 with a local focus.




Worksheet 1 – The Bucks Standard

Look at the newspaper extracts:

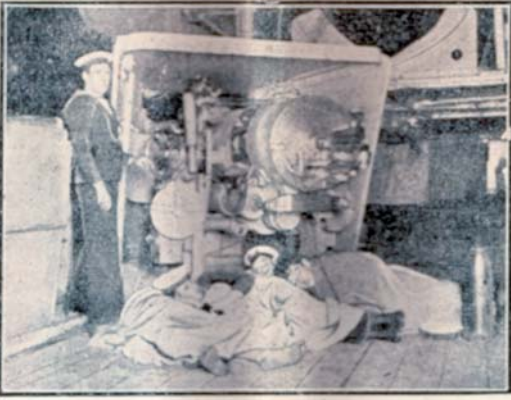
THE BUCKS STANDARD—SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1914

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.



Lord Kitchener's appeal for volunteers has met with an enthusiastic response. All over the country the strong young manhood of Great Britain is flocking to the colours at this time of the nation's need. Our photograph shows a company of recruits drilling in Hyde Park.

SLEEPING BY THE GUN.



The picture shows a gun crew sleeping by the gun on the deck of a battleship, so as to be instantly ready for action.

Look at the pictures and captions opposite:

What is happening in each picture?

Do you think they are spontaneous or posed?

Why do you think the pictures were taken?

What words or phrases would you use to explain the atmosphere in the pictures?

Imagine how you would feel if you saw these pictures as a young person in Wolverton.

P. S. A. Flower Show.

THE Flower Show advertised to be held under the auspices of the NEWPORT PAGNELL P.S.A. BROTHERHOOD on Saturday, August 22, is

ABANDONED,

in consequence of the War.

Look at the announcement above:

Why was the flower show cancelled?

How do you think life changed in the villages in Milton Keynes during the war?

Look at the announcement opposite:

The legal age of enlistment was 18.

What is the minimum age to join the rifle range?

What does this tell us about the attitude of young men to the war?

Which occupations is this announcement targeting? Why do you think this is?

Re-opening of the Newport Pagnell Rifle Range.

Learn how to Shoot with the Service Rifle!

All Youths of 15 years of age and upwards are invited to join.

Subscription for Artizans, Labourers, and Apprentices 1s.

Cheap Ammunition. In certain cases Free.

Worksheet 2 – Cooking on the Home Front

These extracts give insights into what life was like at home.



This poem was published in Home Chat, a women's magazine towards the end of World War 1.

What is the tone of the poem?

What is the writer's attitude to the shortages?

How did shortages shape daily life?



This article was shown in a British women's magazine.

Why would this be interesting to British Women?

What do you think the writer of the article is trying to say?



This advert appeared in Home Chat. It is for pre-packaged soup.

How does the advert show how life changed during the First World War?

Why is it important that the soup is easier to prepare than home-made?

Worksheet 3 – Cobb’s Cards and Medals.

During the project, Lucy Brignell brought postcards and other military mementos from her Great-great-great Grandfather. They have been passed down through the family. Thank you to Lucy and her family for sharing them.



Message on the back reads:

‘From Fred, in the trenches should you like to be here.’

Another message reads:

‘From your ever loving and true darling Fred. Your letter was very nice and it cheered me up so dear and I do love you so, when I get home I can tell you how I love you.’

Postcards were an important way for family and friends to stay in contact.

Look at the postcards above:

Who took the picture?

Do you think it shows life in the trenches accurately? Why? Or why not?

Do you think Frederick Cobb said everything that he wanted to in his messages?

Why? Or why not?

Imagine you are Frederick Cobb: write a message to your family about life in the trenches.



The picture opposite shows the three WW1 campaign medals:

- the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star;
- the British War Medal;
- and the Victory Medal.

The medals were known as ‘Pip, Squeak and Wilfred’ - after popular cartoon characters of the day.

Look at the images on the medals.

What do you think they show?

Worksheet 4 – Women on the Home Front

It is estimated between two and five million women joined the labour force during World War 1. Women were offered increased opportunities in the labour market due to the shortage of male workers. The articles below are taken from the women's magazine *Home Chat* published towards the end of the war in February 1918.

February 23, 1918. HOME CHAT. 177

SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL

The Right Sort of Outfit for War-Workers—The Type of Collar Worn—What Underclothing is Needed—The Importance of Tidy Hair.

By CAMILLA AND LADY BETTY.

SD many girls are wearing uniform that we feel perfectly justified in devoting some of this week's chat to the plain garments needed by war-workers.

SHIRTS.
A plain shirt is a necessity, but there is no rhyme or reason why a little individuality should not be brought to bear upon it, and we think you will agree that the two we are giving herewith exactly meet the case.

THE HIGH STOCK COLLAR.
The stock collar is a style that many war-workers affect. There is something especially neat and attractive about the arrangement of a neckband and tie in one; besides which, it can be so quickly adjusted, a great consideration in these days of stress and bustle.

Another effective neck finish is found in a separate soft up-and-down collar, attached to a shirt, like a man's, on to a narrow, permanently attached band, fitted with studholes. With this an ordinary tie is worn.

A KHAKI SHIRT AND USEFUL KNICKERS.
(Sketch No. 4273.)—Arranged with a yoke back and sleeves of the usual type. The fronts are double-breasted and turned back at the top in front revers, completed by a neat step-collars. A small but very interesting detail is the inserted pocket, which allows for a slight, ornamental touch in a piping and aprons' head embroidery at the opening. The knickers (Sketch No. 4274) are quite simple, the waist run with a slot and elastic and the legs arranged with a narrow buckled band to fasten just below the knee. A procedure that is equally satisfactory, no matter whether the knickers are worn with high top boots, shoes and thick worsted stockings, or puttees. Dull can be used, or serge, cloth, or tweed.

Then, as an alternative, there is to be seen a slightly open throat, but the latter is not very appropriate with uniform, although quite permissible for girls who work on the land. But though first of all for war-workers, our shirt designs are equally suitable for ordinary everyday wear, provided they are carried out in some sturdy stuff, such as tussore or Shantung, linen, drill, piqué, etc.

UNDERWEAR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WAR-WORKING GIRL.
Although no mandate has gone forth as to what uniformed girls should wear in the way of underclothing, common-sense dictates that it shall be something warm in the way of woven combinations, or a vest and drawers, since the fewer the garments the better,—petticoats, of course, are utterly out of the question. Over these should come a woven Spencer bodice, close fitting and with long sleeves.

Corsets are very seldom worn, but it may be found necessary to adopt some sort of belt for the stocking suspenders.

A SIMPLE SHIRT AND PLAIN SKIRT.
(Sketch No. 4271.)—Many girl war-workers like a simple shirt and stock tie, and this is a particularly nice design. The full-gathered front is centered by a box-pleat, and the back fullness is gathered into a neat yoke. It would work out well in natural Tussore, stock tie and all. The skirt (Sketch No. 4272) is arranged with a side front opening from waist to hem—a very practical idea for the war-worker. The patch pocket is a useful size, and the width at the hem is just right, and what fullness there is is shaped away at the waist and mounted into a buckled strap.

Flat paper patterns of either design, 6d.

Compare these clothes to those at the turn of the century.

How did fashion change?

How are the practicalities of work reflected in the clothing?

CHAT. 177

INDISPENSABLE to WAR-WORKERS.

THE War cannot be won without aeroplanes, and a woman's skin cannot resist the strain of war-work without the natural help which Ven-Yusa, the new Oxygen Face Cream, is designed to give.

Ven-Yusa acts by releasing oxygen, which not only bathes the complexion with a beautifying and invigorating vigour, but cleanses the pores and puts new life into the skin underneath.

Applied in the morning, it protects the face and hands during working hours. At breaking-off time and at night Ven-Yusa is a wonderful refresher, and banishes that careworn look caused by mental and bodily fatigue.

VEN-YUSA
The Oxygen Face Cream

1s. per jar at Chemists, or C. E. Fulford, Ltd., Leeds.

Who is this face cream marketed at?

What three benefits are listed?

Why would sellers market their cream this way?

Links

Buckinghamshire Remembers – a website 'dedicated to remembering all who suffered in the conflict': <http://buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk/>

Days of Pride – the website uses material which created a musical called Days of Pride based on the stories of Wolverton and New Bradwell. The play used the testimony of Hawtin Mundy from this book *No Heroes, No Cowards*. <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/la/DaysofPride/index.html>

Your Loving Brother Albert – featuring letters written by Albert French, a 16-year old boy from Wolverton who signed up to fight: <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/la/>

Living Archive links to a number of pages about World War 1:
<http://www.livingarchive.org.uk/content/category/local-history/topics/first-world-war>

Further Resources

Western Front Association – a society dedicated to remembering World War 1:
<http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/>

Roll of Honour – The names of men and women who fell in battle as written on national and international war memorials: <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/>

War Memorials Trust – an organisation dedicated to the preservation of war memorials in the UK:
<http://www.warmemorials.org/>

Channel 4 – Actors read the War Poets:
<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/remembering-world-war-i/4od>

Imperial War Museum: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>

National Archives: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/index.htm>

British Film Institute - Films for World War 1:
http://www.screenonline.org.uk/history/history_war.html