

Letters from the Home Front: A World War One Diary Template

Learning objective: To understand the experiences of civilians and soldiers during the First World War by using historical empathy.

Imagine you are living in Britain during the First World War (1914–1918). Use this diary template to describe daily life, the impact of the war, and how people felt during this historical period. Use the word bank to help you write accurate historical details.

Word bank: Allies · Central Powers · trenches · rationing · Home Front · propaganda · munitions · conscription · armistice · sacrifice

1. The Date and Setting: Write the date of your diary entry and describe where you are. Are you at home, at school, or perhaps working in a factory? (2 marks)

2. Daily Life: Describe how life has changed because of the war. Mention something about food shortages or how your family is helping the war effort. (4 marks)

3. News from the Front: Ellie the Elephant has been reading historical reports. Write about news you have heard regarding the soldiers in the trenches. (3 marks)

4. Feelings and Hopes: How do you feel about the war today? What are your hopes for the future once the conflict is over? (3 marks)

5. Key Terminology: Choose two words from the word bank and explain how they relate to the life of someone living in Britain during 1914–1918. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a real local war memorial in your town or village. Write a short paragraph explaining why it is important to remember the people named on it today.