

Ellie's Historical Enquiry: The Great War

Learning objective: To analyse the causes and impact of World War 1 through an evidence-based sorting and reasoning activity.

Ellie the Elephant is researching the First World War. Below are various pieces of historical 'evidence'. Sort these into two categories: 'Causes and Context' or 'Impact on Daily Life'. Once sorted, use the evidence to answer the deeper enquiry questions provided.

Word bank: Alliance · Trench · Rationing · Home Front · Empire · Munitions · Propaganda · Armistice

1. Sort the following items: (A) The formation of the Triple Entente, (B) Women taking on jobs in munitions factories, (C) The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, (D) Strict government food rationing, (E) The expansion of national empires. Explain why you placed each item in its chosen category. (6 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the role of the 'Home Front' with the experience of soldiers in the trenches. What evidence suggests that the war affected everyone, not just those in uniform? (4 marks)

3. Justify why historians often describe World War 1 as a 'total war'. Refer to the use of resources and the involvement of the civilian population in your answer. (4 marks)

4. If you were a civilian in 1916, how might the introduction of 'Propaganda' posters influence your opinion on whether to support the war effort? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the system of Alliances had not existed in 1914? Would the conflict have remained a local dispute or escalated anyway? Justify your hypothesis. (4 marks)

6. Reflect on the cost of war. If a family had to survive on a very limited budget, why might the introduction of £0.05 per item taxes on essential goods have caused significant hardship during the conflict? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative symbol that represents the concept of peace following the Armistice. Consider using patterns Zara would admire to symbolise unity.



Extension challenge: Research the significance of the poppies used in remembrance. Write a short, poignant poem, in the style of Leo the Lion, describing the hope for a future without conflict.