

Year 5 History Assessment: The Great War (1914–1918)

Learning objective: To demonstrate chronological understanding, knowledge of life in the trenches, and the impact of the First World War on society.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure you use the provided word bank to support your explanations where appropriate.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the archives of the Great War. She notes that the conflict began in 1914 and involved major global powers. Soldiers faced harsh conditions in the trenches, while at home, families had to adapt to significant changes as the nation supported the war effort.

Word bank: Allies · Central Powers · Trench Warfare · No Man's Land · Rationing · Home Front · Armistice · Conscription

1. Identify two countries that were part of the Allies and two countries that were part of the Central Powers. (2 marks)

2. Explain why 'No Man's Land' was considered the most dangerous area for a soldier during the conflict. (2 marks)

3. Define the term 'Rationing' and explain why it was introduced on the Home Front. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the life of a soldier in the trenches with the life of a civilian working in a factory on the Home Front. (4 marks)

5. Justify why the introduction of conscription in 1916 was a significant turning point for the British government. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if the Armistice had not been signed on 11th November 1918? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

7. Write a diary entry from the perspective of a person living in 1918. Describe the mood of the country as the war came to an end, the challenges faced during the previous four years, and your hopes for the future. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a cross-section of a trench, including features such as the fire step, the parapet, and the dugout.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research the role of animals during the war. Write a brief report explaining how carrier pigeons or horses assisted the troops and why their contributions were vital to communication and transport.