

Ellie's Great War History Challenge

Learning objective: To recall key facts about the causes, conditions, and impact of the First World War (1914–1918) as per the Year 5 History curriculum.

Join Ellie the elephant, our history expert, as she travels back in time to investigate the First World War. Read each question carefully and use your historical knowledge to answer.

Answer Key: 1. C (1914-1918), 2. True, 3. No Man's Land, 4. B (To protect soldiers from enemy fire), 5. False (It was a global conflict), 6. Rationing, 7. A (11th November 1918), 8. Conscription, 9. The Home Front, 10. D (All of the above).

Word bank: Alliances · Trenches · Armistice · No Man's Land · Home Front · Conscription · Rationing

1. 1. Between which years did the First World War take place? A) 1900-1904 B) 1910-1914 C) 1914-1918* D) 1918-1922 (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Trench warfare was a common method used by soldiers to defend their positions. (1 mark)

3. 3. What was the name given to the dangerous area of land between the opposing front-line trenches? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why were trenches dug in a zig-zag pattern? A) To look pretty B) To protect soldiers from enemy fire and explosions* C) To save space D) To make it easier to run (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: The First World War only involved countries located in Europe. (1 mark)

6. 6. What was the name of the system introduced to control the amount of food and supplies people could buy, due to shortages? (1 mark)

7. 7. On what date was the Armistice signed, marking the end of the fighting? A) 11th November 1918* B) 25th December 1914 C) 1st January 1919 D) 4th August 1914 (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the term for when a government legally requires citizens to join the armed forces? (1 mark)

9. 9. What name is given to the activities and experiences of people living in Britain while the soldiers were away fighting? (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these were roles women took on during the war? A) Working in munitions factories B) Driving ambulances C) Working on farms D) All of the above* (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from the 'Home Front' showing how life in Britain changed, such as a vegetable garden replacing a flower bed or someone working in a factory.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the system of alliances between countries made a local conflict turn into a world war. 2. Compare and contrast the life of a soldier in the trenches with the life of a child on the Home Front. 3. Justify your answer: Was the invention of the tank or the aeroplane more significant in changing the outcome of the war? 4. What might happen if rationing had not been introduced in Britain? 5. Why do we continue to remember the soldiers of the First World War today? 6. Imagine you are a nurse in 1917; write a short diary entry describing the challenges of your daily life.