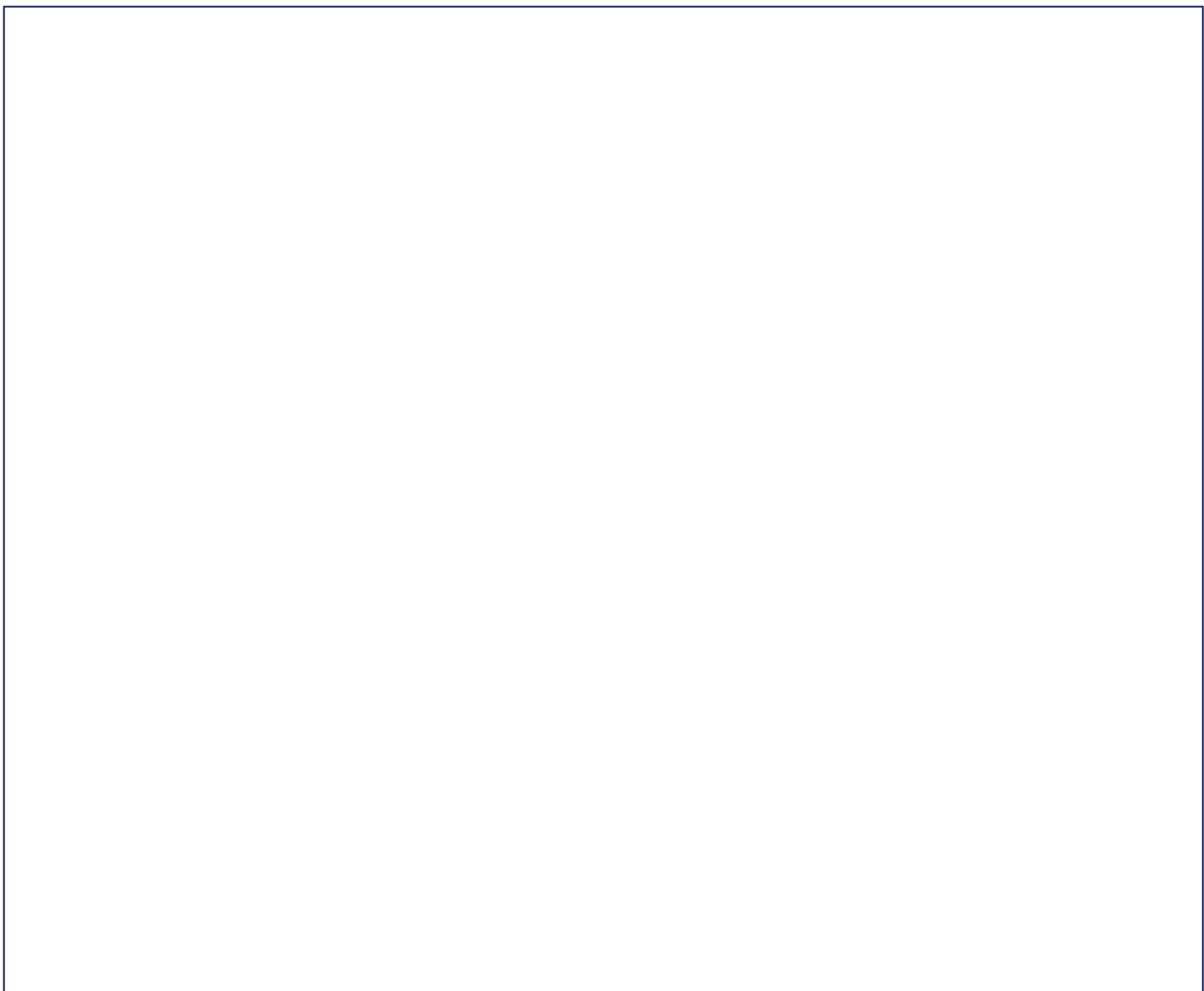


Life in the Trenches: A Historical Sketch

Learning objective: To understand the conditions and key features of a trench system during the First World War.

Follow the steps below to complete your historical drawing. Use the word bank to label the key features of the trench system you have created.

Draw: Draw a cross-section view of a WWI trench. Start by drawing a deep 'U' shape in the ground. Include 'duckboards' at the bottom to keep feet out of the mud. Add a 'dugout' carved into the side wall for shelter. At the top edge, draw a 'parapet' made of sandbags. In front of the trench, draw a tangled line representing 'barbed wire'. Finally, draw a soldier using a 'periscope' to look over the top safely towards 'No Man's Land'. Use clear, clean lines and labels for each feature.



Label words: Parapet · Duckboards · Dugout · Barbed wire · No Man's Land · Periscope

Steps:

1. Why were duckboards essential for soldiers living in trenches during wet weather?
2. Label your drawing to identify the area that existed between the front-line trenches of two opposing armies.
3. What was the purpose of a periscope in a trench environment?

4. Look at Ellie the elephant's historical notes: 'Trenches were often zig-zagged rather than straight.' Why do you think this design was used?
5. Identify one item from the word bank that was used as a defensive barrier against enemy infantry attacks.