The Great War: Life and Legacy

Learning objective: To understand the causes, key experiences, and lasting impact of the First World War.

Use your historical knowledge to answer the following questions. Provide clear, detailed explanations for the marks available.

Ellie the elephant has spent years listening to stories of the past. As we look at the First World War (1914-1918), think about the global scale of the conflict, the conditions faced by soldiers on the Western Front, and the vital role played by people back in Britain.

Word bank: Alliances · Trenches · Home Front · Armistice · Treaty of Versailles · Conscription

1. Identify two reasons why the First World War started in 1914. Consider the system of alliances between European countries. (2 marks)

2. Describe two physical challenges soldiers faced while living in the trenches. How did these conditions affect their daily life? (2 marks)

3. What was the 'Home Front'? Give one example of how life changed for people in Britain during the war years. (2 marks)

4. Explain why the date 11th November 1918 is significant in history. What term is used to describe the official end of the fighting? (2 marks)

5. If a soldier in 1915 sent a letter home, why might it have been censored by the government before it reached his family? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative poppy in the style of Zara, adding patterns or colours that represent peace and remembrance.

Extension challenge: Research the 'Treaty of Versailles'. Write a short paragraph explaining why some historians believe this treaty helped lead to further conflict in the future.