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Introduction

How to use this pack

This pack provides a range of historical sources, lesson ideas and activities linked to Key Stages 1 and 2 through Literacy, History and Citizenship. The materials have been developed from documents and photographs contained within The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) and The City of Westminster Archives Centre (COWAC), unless otherwise stated.

The activities and resources will focus on remembrance, developing the pupils' speaking and listening, discussion and empathy skills. They are organised into objective-led themes relating to the Primary Literacy Strategy and QCA History and Citizenship Units.

These activities provide opportunities for children to link their everyday experiences with people in the past and to gain an appreciation of the impact that the First World War had on British society at that time. It is recommended that teachers use the storybooks Michael Morpurgo's *The Best Christmas Present Ever* and Michael Foreman's *War Game* to support the archive material that includes photographs, letters and diaries from the BPMA and the City of Westminster Archives.

The worksheets can be photocopied and are intended for use with both Key Stages. In addition, the booklet includes facsimiles and supplementary material that can also be downloaded free from www.postalheritage.org.uk/lastpost offering additional opportunities for ICT work. The web-based materials are ideal for use with interactive whiteboards and overhead projectors. The online gallery, containing images from the booklet and other items from the archive collections, provides opportunities for children to develop their ICT and local study research skills.

Information sheets have been provided to put the events discussed in the activities into the wider context of the First World War, and the role of the British Post Office during the conflict.

Glossary

Alliance	An agreement between nations in which each nation agrees to do certain things towards a common goal. This often means supporting each other in war.
Anarchist	A person who believes that government is undesirable and should be abolished.
Armistice	A truce or peace agreement; the First World War ended with the 1918 Armistice.
Army Post Office	Organisation that carried letters and parcels between battalions.
Assassination	A secretive murder of someone who is often prominent politically; the First World War was sparked by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
The Balkans	A region in south-eastern Europe. A conflict between the Balkan country of Serbia and Austro-Hungary sparked the First World War.
Battalion	An infantry unit in the military composed of a headquarters and at least two or more companies or units. Several battalions make up a regiment.
Bombardment	An attack carried out by artillery or with bombs falling from on high.
Combat	To fight or oppose, in a military battle.
Conscription	A compulsory enlistment of people into the military. In the early years of the First World War Britain relied on a voluntary military service, but in January 1916, Prime Minister Lloyd George introduced the Military Service Act which gave Britain conscription.
Contribute	To give to or aid.
Correspondence	Communications between individuals, often through letters.
Counterattack	An attack made directly in response to an enemy's offensive.
Deadlock	When opposing forces are each unable to make progress; a stalemate.
Depletion	To severely decrease something, often a resource.
Deterioration	The gradual decline in quality of an object or situation (e.g. the relationship between Britain and Germany deteriorated).
Dissemination	To disperse or spread widely.
Distribute	To provide or give out.
Empire	A large group of people or a territory traditionally ruled by a sovereign or emperor. Three important empires took part in the First World War: the British Empire, on the side of the Allies; and the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires on the side of the Central Powers (Germany).
Espionage	A government's use of spies to uncover the secrets of other nations.
Gallantry	Acting exceedingly courageously or bravely.
Home Front	The civilians who remain at home and oversee the nation when its soldiers are at war. In Britain during the First World War the Home Front is often associated with the women who held the country together while the men were in Europe fighting.
Imperialism	The belief in empire-building; a belief that one is entitled to conquer other nations.
Incident	An important event, e.g. the sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i> caused the USA to enter the war.
Inconvenience	Something which is not helpful.
Independence	Freedom from the control of others.
Intelligence	Level of knowledge e.g. a government would gather intelligence on another government.
<i>Lusitania</i>	A British ocean liner famously sunk by a German U-boat on 7 May 1915, drawing international outrage against the Germans. 1,198 people died in the sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i> . The ship was 'thought' to be carrying munitions intended for the Allies.
Militarism	The belief that building up a large military is beneficial.
Mobilise	To make ready, usually an army.
Monitor	To closely follow or watch.
Morale	Positive or negative feeling within a group of people.
Nationalism	The political belief of asserting the interests of one's nation before others'.

Neutrality	Remaining free of allegiance, particularly in a conflict.
(Uniform) Penny Post	A system of post which began in 1840, in which posting a letter anywhere in Britain only cost a penny. This post rate ended in 1918.
Postal censorship	The censorship of mail during the First World War carried out by the Post Office was responsible for the capture of spies like Karl Lody. Mail was opened and read during delivery.
Prestigious	Highly regarded.
Prisoners of war	Soldiers captured by an opposing military force.
Punish	To impose a penalty for a wrong committed.
Ration books	Given to civilians in order to 'restrict' the use of consumable goods.
Recruitment	Convincing people to enlist into something, e.g. the army.
Regiment	A military ground unit composed of two or more battalions, a headquarters, and other supporting units.
Rejected	Refused or sent back.
Reparations	Making up for wrongs you have committed, often monetary compensation. Germany was forced by the Treaty of Versailles to pay reparations to other European nations; the harshness of these is often cited as one of the causes which led to Hitler's rise to power.
Restrictions	Something which obstructs or limits.
Revenge	To punish for someone for a perceived wrong done to you.
Rivalry	A competition between individuals or groups, e.g. in the years before the First World War there was a rivalry between the British and German navies.
Sabotage	To ruin something deliberately.
Spies	Individuals who secretly investigate other countries or groups.
Stalemate	A position where no progress can be made by any side involved in a conflict. This is a chess term
Telegraph	A means of communication which sends messages or signals across long distances through electrical wires, using a simple code.
Terrorist	A person who terrorizes others by violence or force., usually for political reasons.
Theatre of war	A specific geographic area in which military battles take place.
Treaty of Versailles	The treaty signed at the Paris Peace Conference which stated the terms of Germany's defeat.
Trench warfare	A method of warfare in which each side has a set, unmoving line of defence based in trenches.
Triple	Group of three.
Triple Alliance	An agreement between Germany, Austro-Hungary and Italy which lasted from 1882 until the First World War, stating that each would aid the others in an armed conflict.
Triple Entente	An alliance formed between the Britain, France and Russia in 1907, which would lead to their partnership in the First World War.
Ultimatum	A final issue of demands which, if not accepted, often leads to a collapse in relations.
Victoria Cross	The highest award for valour and gallantry 'in the face of the enemy' in Commonwealth countries.
Volunteer	An individual who, of their own accord, enlists in the military.
War effort	The mobilisation done on the Home Front to support the army and soldiers away at war.
Western Front	A theatre of war between 1914 -1918, running from the North Sea south to the Swiss border, consisting of trench networks separated by No Man's Land.
The Wiemar Republic	The government that governed Germany from 1919 until 1933.
Woodrow Wilson's 'Fourteen Points'	A famous speech given by US President Wilson in which he outlined a solution for post-First World War Europe. In these points he suggested the creation of a League of Nations (to keep the peace between countries) which became the predecessor to the United Nations.
Zeppelin	A rigid-framed airship (not a balloon) filled with helium or hydrogen, used by the Germans in bombardments of England during the First World War.