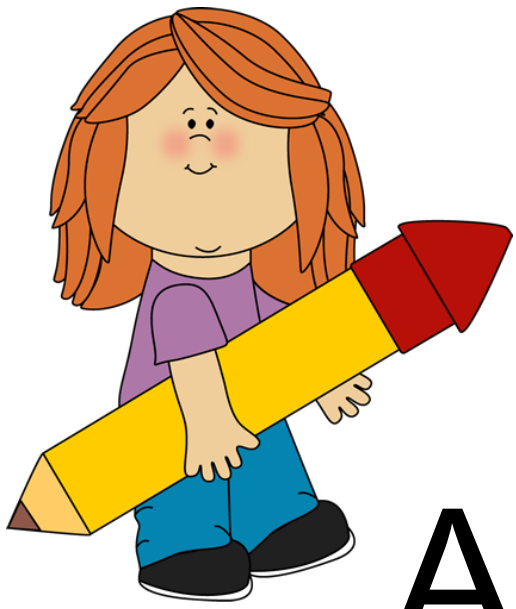




English - Home Learning Letters from the Trenches



As researchers we are
finding out about World
War One.


























This week we are going to practise:

- Writing in character
- Using adjectives to describe

You can download all the resources that you need from our website.

www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk



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ue 	aw 	wh 	ph 	ew 	oe 	au 
ey 	a_e 	e_e 	i_e 	o_e 	u_e 	

Common Exception Words

I	no	the	to	go	into
he	are	she	her	we	was
me	all	be	they	you	my
said	little	have	one	like	
were	so	there	do	what	
some	when	come	out	oh	
Mrs	Mr	people	their	called	
looked	asked	could			

Conjunctions

but	if	when
because	or	and

Watch out! There is a full stop thief out and about. To scare him off, say your sentences out loud. After writing a sentence check through your work to make sure he hasn't visited. Sometimes, he can also be very mischievous, and he likes to swap a question mark for a full stop!



Monday – Researching the conditions in the trenches

We are going to find out what the trenches were like.



The Trenches

- During World War One they used trenches.
- These were dug out from the ground to form long corridors.
- They were very muddy, wet, smelly and unpleasant.



The Trenches



The Trenches

- The soldiers slept in small spaces in the trenches.
- The trenches had lots of rats.



The Trenches



The Trenches

- People got 'trench foot' because their feet would become constantly wet and sore.
- As the war continued they built small rooms and areas into the trenches.



No Man's Land

- The land between the British and German trenches was called No Man's Land.
- It was not a safe place to go because of the shooting and firing across the trenches.
- You could not climb out of your trench or stick your head up or out.



Many soldiers remarked on the oddly joyful sound of larks still singing despite the horror and destruction.

BARBED WIRE:
Buried deep under the ground.
Almost impossible to get through.

NO MAN'S LAND:

The bombardment destroyed every living thing between the lines, leaving only mud and shell holes filled with water. Bodies were left unburied because it was too dangerous to go out and move them.

The spikes on German soldiers' helmets stuck up above the trenches. The Allies used them for target practice until the Germans changed the design.

GAS:
Both sides used poison gas so soldiers needed gas masks.

MINES:
Tunnels were dug deep under enemy trenches and filled with explosive.

SHELL SHOCK:
The constant shelling left huge numbers of soldiers with trauma - unable to think straight, let alone fight. This was not understood at the time and over three hundred British soldiers were shot for cowardice.



TRENCH COAT:
Designed for British and French officers, this style has been in fashion ever since.



LATRINES

Toilets were just
holes in the ground.
They stank.

TRENCH WARFARE

Few had expected a war in which machine guns and heavy artillery – the firing of huge missiles, called shells, which exploded when they hit the ground – made it so easy for defenders in trenches to kill attackers crossing open ground. Mostly soldiers huddled in the trenches under constant bombardment. Conditions were appalling.



Video

Visit the following website and watch the video.

It is about halfway down the web page:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqhyb9q/articles/z8sssbk>



Watch our video to learn more about life in the trenches.

Adjectives

We can use adjectives to help add descriptions to our writing.
Adjectives are used to describe nouns.

adjective

An adjective describes a noun.

beautiful *fierce* *huge*
creepy *wonderful*

NOUN

A noun is the name of something, a place or a person.

chair *troll* *tiger*
pencil *James*

Use the plan on the next page or fold a piece of paper up into six sections. Draw some pictures or add some adjectives, phrases or key words to help with describing the trenches.

What might it have smelled like?	What might they eat?	What does it feel like?
What might they hear?	What might they see?	Any other useful adjectives, sentences or phrases.

Tuesday – Planning to write letters

You are going to write letters as if you were soldiers in the trenches.

This is very tricky; you will need to make a good plan for this.

I have included an example letter and a link to a video to help get you thinking.



April 1917

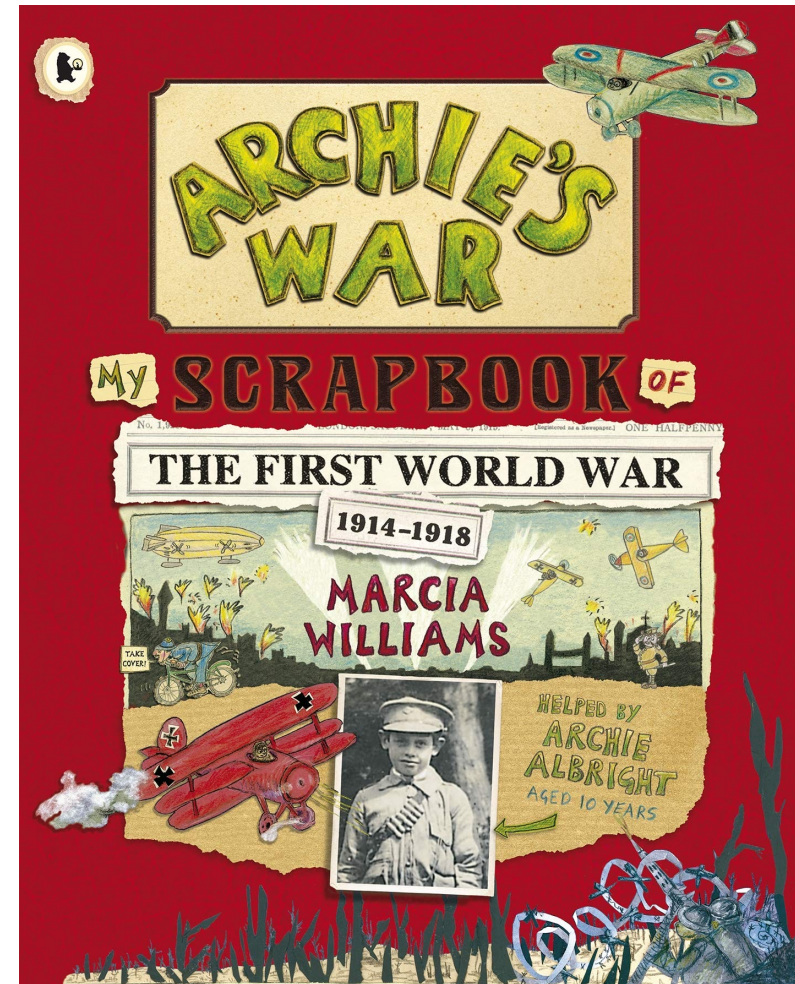
Dear Family,

Things are much the same here, except there is a little more rain and a little more action. The bad news is the lice still love us, but the good news is that the rats are leaving us alone. I think it is because we have so little food. I would like to think they had moved to the German trenches, but I think they have even less food. I am suffering from a bit of trench foot and would love another pair of socks, if possible. The water and mud slosh about in the bottom of the trench and it is hard to keep dry. I'll be sure to bring you some Flanders mud for your scrapbook, Archie!

Miss you all. Keep safe and keep writing.

Dad.

This is an extract from a book called Archie's War. It has lots of letters and is made to look like a scrapbook.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPBSaRppmJs>

Tuesday – Planning to write letters

We have to write our letters in character; that means we have to pretend to be someone who was in the trenches during WW1.

Firstly, during WW1 only men could join the army and fight. So, you are going to have to pretend to be a man with a traditional English name. Here are some examples: John, William, Thomas, James, Arthur, Walter, Albert, Charles, Edward, Alfred or Frank.



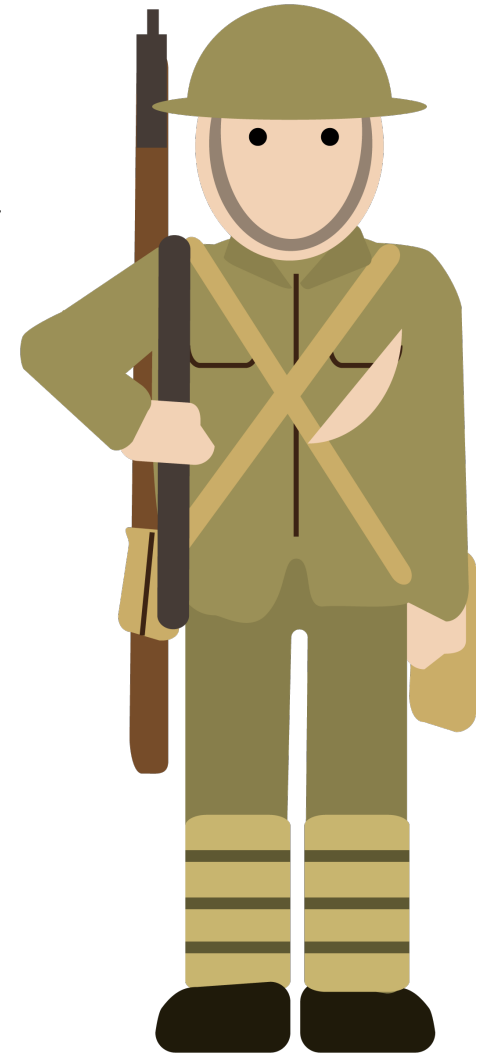
Tuesday – Planning to write letters

Only adults, people 18 years and older, could join the army. You might decide that you're married with children. You would really miss your children, wife or parents if you were fighting in the trenches.

Pet dogs were also very popular, just like now, so you might have a pet dog at home that you miss.

You have to imagine what it would have been like and felt like in the trenches.

The plan on the next page should help. Include lots of adjectives and words about your feelings.



Name:..... 23/11/21 LI: I can plan for writing.

Step 1: I can record my ideas for writing in pictures and words. Step 2: I can plan for writing. Step 3: I can include vocabulary or sentences that might be useful.

What is your name?	
Who are you writing to?	
How are you feeling?	
What is the worst thing?	
Who do you miss the most?	
What are the trenches like?	
Write any other adjectives, phrases or sentences that might help.	

Wednesday – Starting our letter

Before we write our letters, I want you to watch a video.

It is based on a very important historical event, called the Christmas Truce.

Everyone thought that World War One would be over by Christmas in 1914; however, sadly it was not, and it lasted for 4 years.

During Christmas in 1914 everyone stopped fighting for one day. They sang Christmas carols, played football and exchanged presents. This is an important historical event.



Wednesday – The Christmas Truce

Watch this video with a grown up at home and talk about it with them.
How does it make you feel? How does it make the grown ups feel?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWF2JBb1bvM>

Wednesday – starting our letters

Remember, when we write a sentence we need to do the following:

think it



What are you writing about?
What could you include?

say it



Say your sentence lots of times.
Use your fingers to help.

write it



Use your best handwriting.
Use your phonics and word
banks to help with spellings.

read it



Read through all your writing.
Check that it makes sense and
correct any mistakes.
Can you improve your work?

Watch out for that full stop thief! Read through your work to check he hasn't stolen any full stops or swapped question marks!



Wednesday – starting our letters

We always start letters with the word dear.

In the opening of your letter, you might want to say who you are missing at home and say how you are feeling. Do not rush your letter. Take your time and focus on writing a really good opening. Leave describing the trenches and saying how yucky the food is until tomorrow. Concentrate on a really good opening. Remember to use your phonics for any spellings or ask a grown up for help. Here is my example of a letter opening:

Dear Mary,

I have finally found some time to write to you. I hope that you and the children are well. I am missing you all so much.

Thursday – continuing your letters

Today, you are going to finish writing your letters. Look back over any of the pictures or videos to help you with this. You could describe the trenches and how horrible they are. You might have even met Sgt. Stubby or taken part in the Christmas Truce. When writing your letters, you wouldn't want to worry your family too much. I would not talk about people dying or getting hurt, because this might make them sad and wouldn't be very nice to write about. Write very carefully and think about each sentence one at a time.

Thursday – extra challenge

Different sentence types.

If you want an extra challenge, you could include different sentence types in your writing.

A statement sentence tells you something,
or gives you some information
and usually ends with a full stop.



statement

Once upon a time, there were three little pigs.

The boy flew his rocket to the moon.

We had a wonderful day at the park.

A question sentence starts with a
question word and ends with question mark.
It can be answered.



question

How many legs does a spider have?

What is the capital city of England?

Where do penguins come from?

An exclamation sentence starts with what or
how and ends with an exclamation
mark. It sounds a bit like a question
but cannot be answered.



exclamation



How lovely the weather is today!

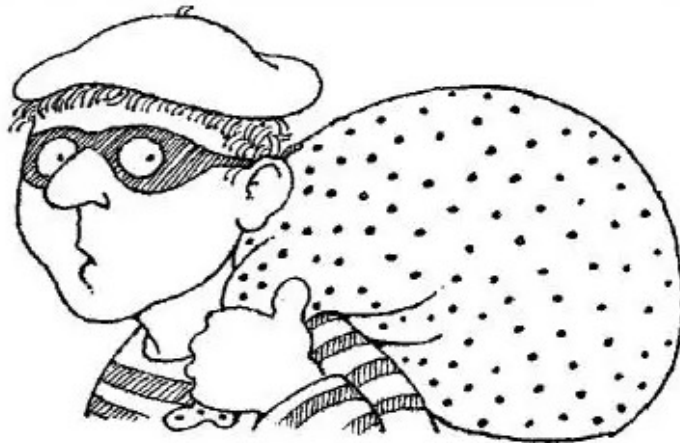
What a wonderful story that is!

What sharp teeth you have!

Friday – Publishing your letter.

Today, we are going to publish our letters or write them up in best. This gives us a chance to correct any mistakes, check full stops, capital letter, spellings and that everything makes sense!

Read everything first! Are there ways to improve you work?



read it



Read through all your writing.
Check that it makes sense and
correct any mistakes.
Can you improve your work?

Handwriting

- When you publish your story make sure that it is in your best, most amazing handwriting.
- Some of you might be ready to join, others might not be joining yet and that is fine!
- Remember that all your words and letters should stick to the line.
- If you are joining your letters, you will see the correct letter formations on the next page to remind you.

Tortoise Letters



a c e i m n o
r s u v w x z

Monkey Letters



f g j p q y

Giraffe Letters



b d h k l t

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

a b c d e f
g h i j k l
m n o p q
r s t u v w
x y z

Don't forget to bring your letter to school
when you return!



