

Session Plan 1

Introduction to the archaeology of the First World War Home Front.

This session introduces young people to archaeology and why it is important to record First World War Home Front sites.

The activities are designed to support the National Curriculums in England, Wales and Northern Ireland at Key Stage 2 and are suitable for pupils in Scotland following the broad general education phase of the Curriculum of Excellence. They are relevant for the KS2 'Local History Study' in England and Wales, 'The World Around Us' at KS2 in Northern Ireland, and support experiences and outcomes in Social Studies at Levels 2-4 in the broad general education of the Curriculum for Excellence. The activities are also tailored for youth groups such as Young Archaeologists' Clubs, Scouts and Guides.

Session aims

- For your group to learn about archaeology and the importance of the remaining First World War Home Front sites.
- For your group or pupils to understand the importance of recording First World War sites to ensure their long-term preservation

Session outcomes

Your class or group will have discovered more about archaeology and why it is important to record First World War Home Front sites. Your class or group will also learn that sites survive in all locations, including urban and rural environments.

Resources required

Training video:

What is archaeology and the Home Front Legacy?

It can be viewed via YouTube on your class whiteboard. The video is presented by members of the Sheffield Young Archaeologists' Club.

Session plan

What is archaeology?

Start your session with a group discussion about what archaeology is and what archaeologists study and do. You might like to use post-it notes to record your group's ideas. Words that they might come up with could include digging, excavation, treasure, gold, Romans, Vikings, etc. Remember that archaeologists investigate human activity, not dinosaurs (that's palaeontology!)

What do members of your class or group know about the First World War?

Brainstorm words and ideas about the First World War with your class or group. Again, you might like to collect these on post-it notes.

People often think of trenches and fighting in France and Belgium when they think of the First World War. However, the remains of the First World War are all around us and the effect of the war on the Home Front is often overlooked. As a result, Home Front sites throughout the UK remain to be rediscovered and recorded.

After your group discussions, watch the [What is archaeology and the Home Front Legacy?](#) video with your class or group. Does this change your group's ideas about archaeology and the First World War? Have they got any more ideas to add to your collection of words?

Writing challenge... can your pupils or group members write definitions of the following terms in their own words?

- Archaeology
- Archaeologist
- First World War
- Home Front



Historic England



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Final questions

It is important to consider that once sites are destroyed, they are lost forever.

The following questions should help your group to consider the importance of First World War Home Front sites and the reasons why archaeologists record them: ***Why do archaeologists record First World War buildings? Why is recording First World War sites important?***