

Unit Plan: Autumn 2 – World War One Key Question: How ‘total’ was WWI for people in the British Empire?		
Expected Outcomes Understand causes and outbreak of WWI Explore life on the Western Front and the impact on soldiers and civilians Examine the global dimension of war and the Empire's role Develop empathy and source evaluation through letters, photos, and testimonies		
Developmental Focus Opportunities Communication and Language: Create and deliver monologues as soldiers or civilians from different parts of the Empire Physical Development: Construct a floor map to mark out different countries involved in the war and their contributions Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Explore diary entries and trench poetry to reflect on trauma, resilience, and grief Literacy: Write a letter home from a WWI soldier or a colonial nurse Mathematics: Compare casualty data from various parts of the Empire; chart food rations or war spending Understanding the World: Investigate how countries like India, Canada, and Nigeria supported the war and were affected by it Expressive Arts and Design: Design a class memorial inspired by Commonwealth war graves or trench art		
Key Learning Points		Powerful Knowledge
Causes of war and alliances Trench warfare and new technologies Empire contributions and global dimension Home front changes (women, rationing, propaganda) War's aftermath and remembrance		War affects societies far beyond the battlefield The British Empire played a major role, often overlooked in mainstream narratives WWI reshaped political and cultural boundaries globally
Subject-Specific Vocabulary		Reading Opportunities
Trench Empire Propaganda Armistice Mobilisation	Conscription Home front Colony Casualty Alliance	.Extract from “Private Peaceful” by Michael Morpurgo – Life in the trenches and emotional impact “Lines of Fire” by Michael Morpurgo – Poetry and letters from WWI soldiers “War Horse” (chapter describing No Man’s Land) – Accessible for students of all levels Extracts from BBC Voices of the First World War – First-hand testimonies Recruitment posters and propaganda leaflets – Primary source interpretation Letters from the Indian Army in Europe – Adapted translations for use in class
Possible Misconceptions		Cross-Curricular Links

That WWI was only fought in Europe by white British soldiers That soldiers from the Empire were volunteers treated equally That trench warfare was constant and identical for all That women only contributed through nursing That WWI ended quickly and left no lasting global consequences	Geography: Mapping the British Empire and war fronts English: War poetry and creative writing Art/DT: Poppy and trench art projects RE/PSHE: Grief, memorials, and ethical dilemmas of war
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