Remembering WWI Soldiers Activities A2+

Step 1 - Pre-reading activities

A.1. Place the following countries on the map.


European countries and World War I

Norway
Sweden
Denmark
Luxembourg
Austria-Hungary
Switzerland
Portugal
Serbia
Romania
Albania
Bulgaria
Greece
Turkey

Belgium
France
Germany
Italy
the Netherlands
Russia
Spain
the United Kingdom

2. Now, find the nationality for each country.

Belgium	
France	
Germany	
Italy	
the Netherlands	Dutch
Russia	
Spain	
the United Kingdom	

Observation: In English, nationalities often end with _____, _____ or _____.

B. Now place the words from the box on this picture.
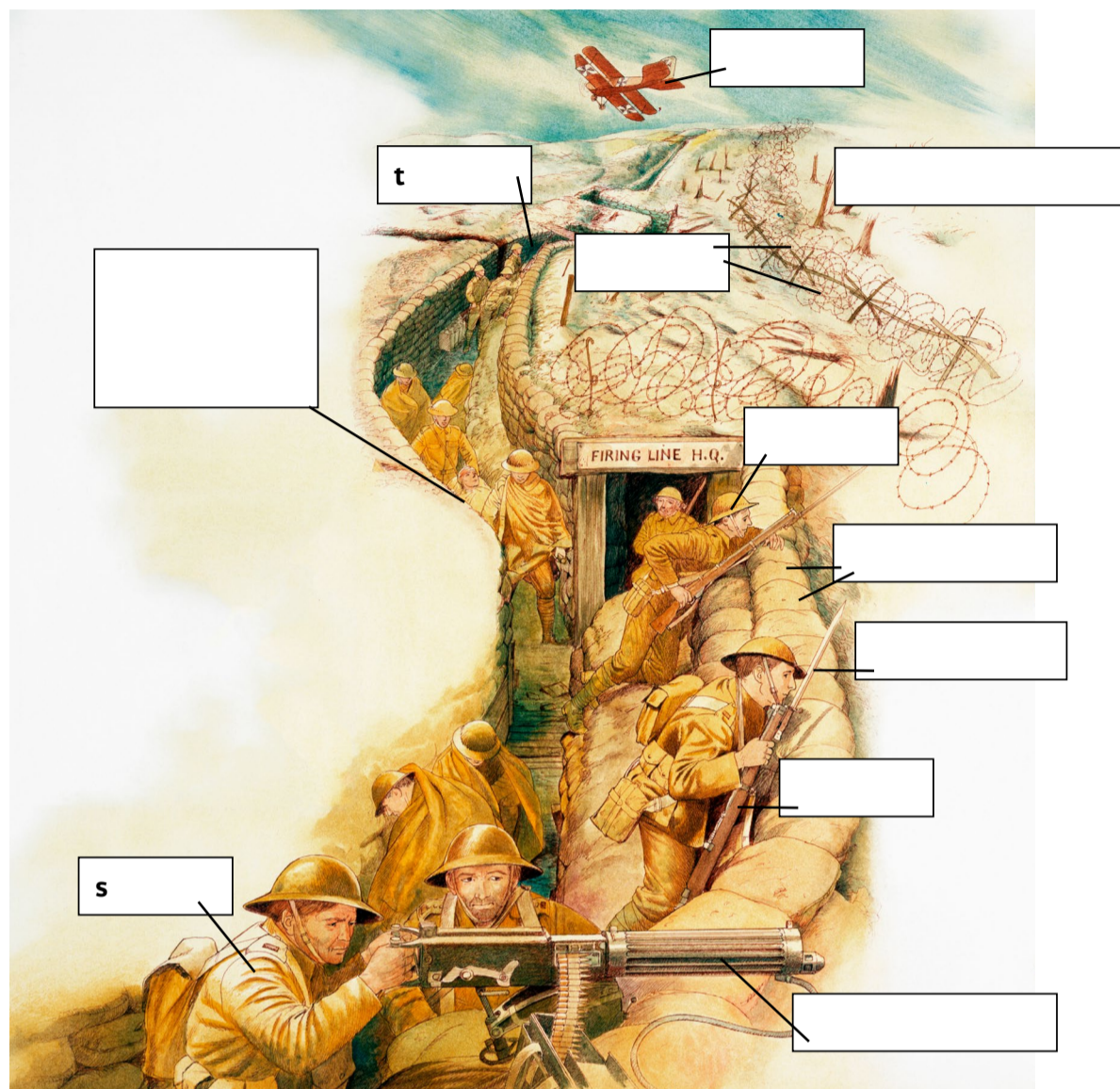

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Objects: fighter plane ● barbed-wire fence ● bayonet ● rifle ● machine gun ●
sandbags ● helmet
Places: trench ● No Man's Land People: soldier ● wounded soldier on a stretcher
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Step 2 - Reading and Speaking

A. European Tensions

1. Read the introduction and the first paragraph of the article and list in the chart the countries that went to war.

CAMP 1	NEUTRAL	CAMP 2

2. Read the first paragraph again and answer the following questions.

a. What is the nickname for Belgium? _____

b. Who do you think gave this nickname? _____

c. A treaty existed to:
- ☐ protect France
- ☐ protect Belgium
- ☐ protect the United Kingdom
- ☐ protect Germany

d. The treaty was between:
- ☐ France and Belgium
- ☐ France and the United Kingdom
- ☐ the United Kingdom and Belgium
- ☐ the United Kingdom and Germany

3. Read the introduction and the first two paragraphs. Now match the numbers and dates to what they represent.

3 August 1914 ●
4 August 1914 ●
700,000 ●
3.7 million ●
1 million ●
18 ●
250,000 ●

- ● the number of British men who offered to go to war
- ● the minimum age limit to become a British soldier
- ● the day Germany invaded Belgium
- ● the number of professional soldiers in the British army
- ● the number of British boys under 18 who signed up to go to war between 1914 and 1916
- ● the day the United Kingdom declared war on Germany
- ● the number of professional soldiers in the German army

4. Answer the following question (more than one answer is possible).

Why did men and boys volunteer to go to war?
- ☐ they thought it would be a short war that would end by Christmas
- ☐ they thought it would be an adventure
- ☐ they had exciting lives
- ☐ they had monotonous lives

B. The Reality of the Conflict
Read the last two paragraphs and decide if each sentence is TRUE or FALSE and correct the sentences that are false.

	True	False
1. 60,000 British soldiers died in one battle.	☐	☐
2. Soldiers lived in good conditions in the trenches because it was warm and comfortable.	☐	☐
3. Soldiers were terrified to go "over the top" into No Man's Land because the enemy fired directly at them.	☐	☐
4. British officers accepted if a soldier didn't go over the top.	☐	☐
5. The war was over by Christmas.	☐	☐
6. The war left more than 8 million dead and 20 million wounded on the British and French side.	☐	☐
7. People promised the war would not happen again but it did one generation later.	☐	☐

C. War Posters
1. Look at the three posters and make a visual description using the word boxes for each one.

children (a son and a daughter)
sit on his lap ● chin ● thoughtful
serious ● armchair ● toy soldiers
carpet ● at home

_____
_____
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window ● anxious ● proud ● clutching each other ● march away ● rifles on their shoulders

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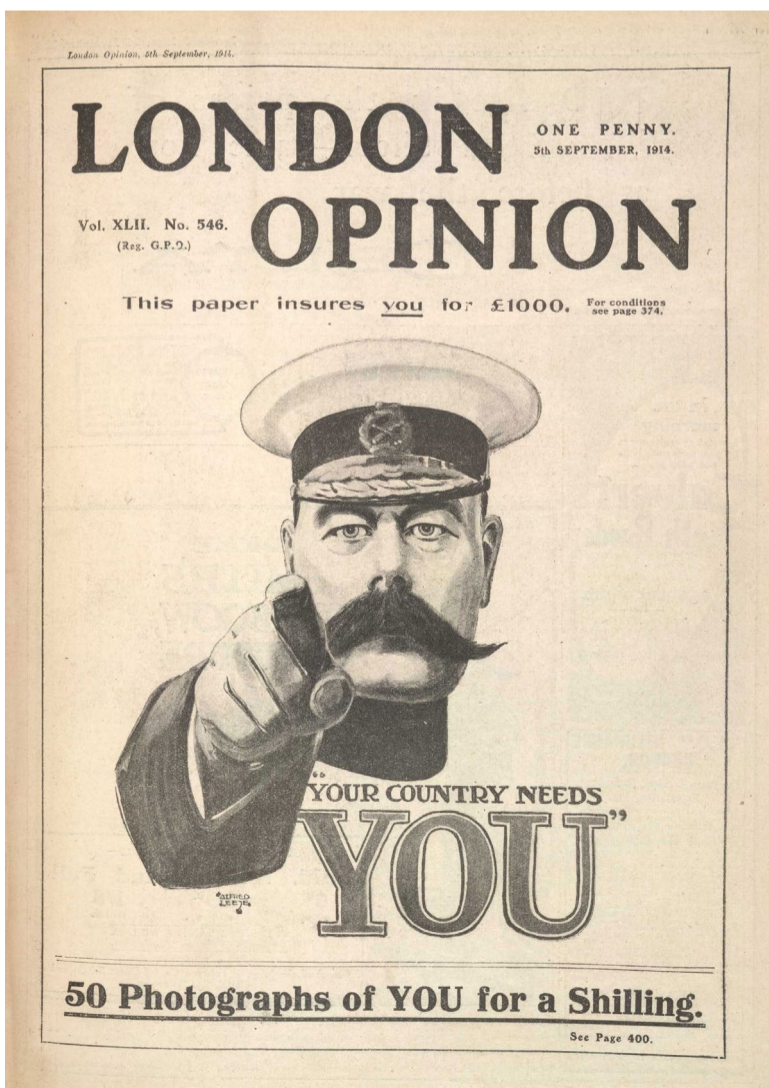
newspaper front page ● Lord Kitchener point a finger at ● serious ● moustache military cap ● the reader

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2. Read the slogan on each poster. What is/are the best explanation(s) for each slogan? Tick the correct answer(s) (more than one answer is possible).

a. Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?

What will his children think if he stays at home during the war.

☐ His children want to know if he participated actively in the war.

☐ His children want to know if he served and protected his country during the war.

☐ His children want him to stay and play with them.

b. Women of Britain say "GO!"

☐ Men will be admired and loved by their women and children if they go to war.

☐ Men will be rejected and lose credibility if they don't go to war.

☐ Women are jealous because they want to go to war too.

c. Your country needs you.

☐ Every man reading this newspaper must sign up to become a soldier.

☐ The United Kingdom needs British men to enlist to protect their country.

☐ British men can't run and hide, they must be brave and volunteer to become soldiers.

D. Poppy Day
Read the article entitled "Poppy Day". Choose the correct ending to each sentence. Sometimes, more than one answer is possible.

1. Poppies are

☐ small animals.

☐ red flowers.

☐ a nickname for soldiers.

2. Poppies are the colour of

☐ bananas

☐ autumn

☐ blood

☐ the sky

3. But when soldiers saw beautiful poppies, they were

☐ hopeful because poppies are a sign of life.

☐ terrified because poppies reminded them of the horror of the war.

4. Poppies inspired

☐ a Canadian soldier to write a poem on a WWI battlefield

☐ two women to use artificial poppies as a sign to remember the atrocities of the war and all the dead soldiers.

☐ American pop music

5. Poppies now symbolise

☐ remembering times before the WWI.

☐ remembering soldiers who died in WWI.

☐ remembering global warming.

☐ remembering all the people who died in wars.

6. Artificial poppies are sold today to

☐ commemorate all the people who died in wars.

☐ help raise money for future wars.

☐ help create jobs for war veterans.

☐ help develop projects for war veterans.

☐ help save the planet.

7. Poppy Day is a day

☐ commemorated in Anglophone countries.

☐ commemorated all over the world.

☐ to plant poppies.

☐ to wear an artificial poppy and remember.

☐ to help war veterans.

8. Poppy Day is actually Remembrance Day on 11 November in
- ☐ France
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ the United Kingdom
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ the U.S.A
- ☐ Germany

9. Poppy Day is actually Memorial Day on the last Monday of May in
- ☐ France
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ the United Kingdom

- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ the U.S.A
- ☐ Germany

10. Poppy Day is actually ANZAC Day on 25 April in
- ☐ France
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ the United Kingdom
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ the U.S.A
- ☐ Germany

E. A New Documentary
1. Match the answers with the questions after reading the first two paragraphs of the article "They Shall Not Grow Old".

a. WHO?

Who is the documentary about? ●	● The Imperial War Museum
Who directed the documentary? ●	● British WWI soldiers
Who ordered the documentary? ●	● Peter Jackson, famous for his movies *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*.

b. WHAT

What is the documentary about? ●	● Peter Jackson didn't film any scenes but he transformed the archives into colour and added sound.
What material did Peter Jackson use? ●	● original archive film and archive interviews
What is special about the material he used? ●	● the reality of WWI
What is new then? ●	● The archives are in black and white and they are silent.

c. HOW?

How did Peter Jackson add sound? ●	● He used actors who read extracts from interviews, as voice-overs.
How did he understand what was happening in some archive scenes? ●	● He asked people who can lip-read to understand what soldiers were saying in some scenes.

d. WHY? Tick the correct answer. More than one answer is possible.

Why did the Imperial War Museum and Peter Jackson create this project?

- So that the audience feel closer to the soldiers' reality.
- So that the audience can see the war in colour, as it really is.
- For the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

2. A Famous Poem
a. Read the last two paragraphs and fill in the missing information for your report.

Title of the poem: _____

Title of the documentary: _____

Poet's name: _____

Poet's nationality: _____

Poet's occupation during WWI: _____

b. Finish the sentences with the help of the article and the words in the box

the dead ● young ● life ● Remembrance ceremonies
alive ● death ● the morning ● dead ● older

- The poem is famous because people recite it at _____.

- In the poem, "we" represents people who are alive and "they" represents _____.

- In the poem, dusk is when the sun goes down and dawn is the sun comes up in _____ _____. So dusk and dawn symbolise _____ and _____.

- Soldiers died at a _____ age but the people who remember them are still _____ and so they become _____ every day that passes.

- In this poem, "fallen" is a synonym for _____.

Step 3 - Sounds of English: Pronouncing your "s" correctly
Decide whether the plural "s" at the end of each word is pronounced /s/, /z/ or /iz/. Tick the correct answer.

	/s/	/z/	/iz/
soldiers	☐	☐	☐
nations	☐	☐	☐
volunteers	☐	☐	☐
guns	☐	☐	☐
uniforms	☐	☐	☐
jobs	☐	☐	☐
lives	☐	☐	☐
boys	☐	☐	☐
forces	☐	☐	☐
lines	☐	☐	☐
trenches	☐	☐	☐
bombs	☐	☐	☐
years	☐	☐	☐
posters	☐	☐	☐
cowards	☐	☐	☐
countries	☐	☐	☐
flowers	☐	☐	☐
veterans	☐	☐	☐
families	☐	☐	☐
projects	☐	☐	☐
scenes	☐	☐	☐
extracts	☐	☐	☐
wars	☐	☐	☐
actors	☐	☐	☐

Observation: In the majority of cases, the plural "s" is pronounced /......./, except when you add "....." at the end of the word and you pronounce it /......./.