Year 9
Subject: History
Topic/Unit: Was there a common experience of World War One, 1914–1920?
When: Autumn Half Term 2

Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Overview: This unit of work explores the nature of the First World War, examining whether a "common experience" existed among those involved. The curriculum spans from the technicalities of trench warfare on the Western Front to diverse global campaigns and the profound legacy of survival and remembrance.

Why this? Why now? World War One was a global turning point that reshaped the modern world through the collapse of empires and the birth of new military technologies. Studying this unit helps students understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day ceremonies held every November. Furthermore, it provides essential context for the 20th-century geopolitical shifts that defined the post-war era.

Building on...building to: This unit builds upon Year 8 studies of global empires, power dynamics, and the Industrial Revolution's impact on production. It serves as a foundation for Year 9 topics, including the Russian Revolution, World War Two, and the rise of Nazi Germany. It also prepares students for GCSE studies in "People's Health" and "Living under Nazi Rule".

Sequence Summary

1. The New Trench Warfare: Understanding the emergence of trench systems as a defensive response to modern artillery and machine guns.
2. Fighting on the Western Front: Comparing the initial disasters of the Somme (1916) with the "combined arms" successes at Amiens (1918).
3. A World at War (Weltkrieg): Researching diverse theatres including the Alpine Front, Gallipoli, East Africa, and the naval Battle of the Atlantic.
4. The Home Fronts: Analysing "total war" by comparing civilian life in York with the German "Heimat Front," including rationing and internment.
5. Survivors and Remembrance: Evaluating the physical and mental trauma of the war, such as shell shock, and the evolution of commemoration through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
6. Writing Practice: Students will write a summary of experiences of WW1.

Key Vocabulary: Total War, Heimat Front, Shell Shock (PTSD), Combined Arms, U-boat, Commemoration, and Battalion.

Assessments: Students will complete a practice essay which requires students to categorise evidence of similarity and difference across global experiences to answer the core unit question. This unit will be used and assessed during History Assessment 2.

Able and Interested: Opportunity to engage with sources, such as Vera Brittain's *Testament of Youth*, to analyse the emotional and psychological toll of loss.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: The unit emphasises the multicultural contributions of Indian, African, Chinese, and Māori troops, ensuring a diverse historical narrative. Local history links to York provide a personal connection to the national story. Students develop empathy by studying the realities of hospital care and mental trauma.