

**Twentieth-century conflict**

<b>Lesson 2: Why were so many lives lost on the Western Front?</b>	
<b>Subject knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In August 1914, around 6 million soldiers were mobilised in Europe: Germany invaded Belgium and France, Russia invaded Germany, Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia and Russia, France invaded German-held Alsace-Lorraine. The British sent their army to help France.</li> <li>● The two sides became known as the Allies (Britain, France and Russia) and the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary).</li> <li>● From November 1914, the Western Front barely moved until the end of the war four years later.</li> <li>● One reason for such loss of life on the Western Front (5 million), was because modern weapon technology was brilliant for defending positions.</li> <li>● Germany had taken much of France and Belgium, and only needed to hang onto them. But France was determined to reclaim their land, meaning attacks had to happen, but the Allies didn't have the technology or tactics to get through German defences.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why was new weaponry important?</li> <li>● What were conditions in the trenches like?</li> <li>● What happened in the Battle of the Somme?</li> </ul>	
<b>Activate prior knowledge</b> <b>10 mins</b>	Lesson slides 1–6 and Work booklet page 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Display the main lesson question and Key questions.</li> <li>● Pupils complete the Quiz independently if they can, but can check back in their booklets if they need to.</li> </ul>
<b>Explain/Explore</b> <b>10 mins</b>	Lesson slides 7–9 and Work booklet pages 9–10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read 'The Western Front' together and show the map (slide 7).</li> <li>● Read 'Weaponry' together, making sure pupils understand how different new weaponry was.</li> <li>● Pupils complete question 1 independently.</li> </ul>
<b>Explain/Explore</b> <b>15 mins</b>	Work booklet page 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Watch a video about First World War trenches, e.g. the Imperial War Museum's 'Life in the Trenches WW1'.</li> <li>● Read 'The trenches' and 'Life in the trenches' together. Ensure pupils understand all the words in the extract.</li> <li>● Pupils complete question 2 in pairs.</li> </ul>
<b>Practise</b> <b>10 mins</b>	Lesson slide 10 and Work booklet page 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read 'The Battle of the Somme' and 'What did the Battle of the Somme achieve?' together.</li> <li>● Organise a class discussion on what the Battle of the Somme tells us about why so many lives were lost on the Western Front.</li> <li>● Pupils complete question 3 independently.</li> </ul>
<b>Reflect</b> <b>5 mins</b>	Lesson slide 11 and Work booklet page 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pupils should complete their Learning review.</li> </ul>
<b>Extend and stretch</b>	Work booklet page 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask pupils to write a description of life in the trenches using the text in the Work booklet.</li> </ul>