



KS1 Lesson Plan

Title: When the War Started

Lesson Objective

To use first hand evidence to understand the role played by 'ordinary people' during the Great War.

Overview

Many people forget the role of 'ordinary people' during the Great War. Without these people taking over the roles of the men and women who went off to war, the war effort would have stopped. By looking at photographs from the period, the class are asked to debate what they can see and why it is important.

Lesson Starter

Ask the class to talk about the jobs that they know people do, discuss who does these jobs, is it just men, just women or both? Explain that before 1914 women did work, but that men were considered the main 'worker' and those women were often paid less and not allowed to work in many jobs.

Main Lesson

Put the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children. Distribute the photographs showing workers (mainly women) ask the children to note down what they can see on paper, after 5 minutes ask for features they have identified. Discuss what they have noted down, drawing attention to the fact that there are now women as the main workforce. Discuss what the implications would be for their families etc. Also point out that not all men went to war and discuss how they might feel now.

Suggested Follow-on Activities:-

- Role Play – Ask the class to role play being in the photograph.
- Paint a picture inspired by the photographs they looked at.
- Write a shape poem about work – you can draw a picture of a person at work and then write what they are doing around the edges.

Plenary

Ask the class how they would feel if their father went to war and their mother went out to work, what might the children be worried about? (This situation still occurs today, if you have forces' children please amend plenary appropriately).