



KS3 Lesson Plan – Year 7/8

Title: Left Behind

Lesson Objective

To use first hand evidence to understand the lives of those left behind during the Great War; to develop lines of enquiry and follow them up.

Overview

Many people forget that although life changed dramatically for everybody because of the war that 'life' still had to continue, factories had to stay open, farms had to continue feeding the populace, schools had to keep teaching etc. By looking at photographs and documents from the period, the class are asked to consider what life might be like then for those 'left behind'.

Lesson Starter

Ask the class to talk about what life would have been like for those not directly involved in the war effort. Not all men went off to fight, and if they did their roles were usually filled by women. Discuss what jobs might be 'reserved occupations' and what those men left behind would have felt, thinking of others fighting and also working alongside women, maybe for the first time.

Main Lesson

Put the class into small groups of 3 to 4, give each group the selection of images and ask the groups to note down what they see in relation to the opening discussion. Discuss what each image shows. What do they think is happening? Are there captions that can help them understand the image? As a class share the thoughts and ideas from each group. Ask the class where they could find out more about those 'Left Behind' in WW1. Discuss what resources etc. they could use.

Wiltshire at War has stories of people's lives in Wiltshire at www.wiltshireatwar.org.uk

The Imperial War Museum website is also very good: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war>

Suggested Follow-on Activities:-

- Diary – Ask the class to write a diary entry, describing how men 'left behind' might feel – remember the 'white feathers'.
- Create a 'Left Behind' poster highlighting the changes to those left behind.

Plenary

Ask the class to think of how they would feel if they were bullied or targeted for not doing something that they weren't allowed to do, just as those men 'left behind' were targeted.