



## Upper KS2 Lesson Plan – Year 5/6 or 6

Title: WOMEN DURING THE WAR

### Lesson Objective

To use first hand evidence to understand the lives of women during the Great War, to develop lines of enquiry and follow them up.

### Overview

Many people forget that life changed dramatically for women during the Great War. With husbands, brothers and sons going off to fight, women were stepping into the 'gap' left in the community by the men-folks' absence. By looking at photographs and documents from the period, the class are asked to consider what life might be like then.

### Lesson Starter

Ask the class to talk about what life is like for women nowadays, what would they like to do, is this only available to boys/men? Discuss what life was like for women at the time before the Great War – women had no vote and were limited in their opportunities.

### Main Lesson

Put the class into small groups of 3 to 4 children, give each group the selection of images featuring women in 1914-1918. 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 the lives of women in WW1. Discuss what resources etc. they could use.

The Wiltshire at War project has stories of Women's lives in Wiltshire at [www.wiltshireatwar.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireatwar.org.uk)

### Suggested Follow-on Activities:-

- Create a Then & Now poster highlighting the changes.
- Ask children to interview grandparents who may recall what their parents'/grandparents' lives were like in the Great War, and afterwards.

### Plenary

Ask the class to think of 5 jobs they would like to do in the future. Can they find the similar job in WW1? Was it available to women before the war, during the war and afterwards?