

World War One

www.bl.uk/world-war-one

Teachers' Notes

Theme: Civilians

Subject area: Daily life on the Home Front

Rationale

In this activity, students will consider the impact of the war beyond the battlefield and consider to what extent World War One impacted upon the lives of civilians.

Content

Historical sources:

- Photograph - [High prices in Paris](#)
- Postcard - [Exchange rate for goods in the year 1915](#)
- Photograph - [Line for food ration stamps in Copenhagen](#)
- Photograph - [Food rationing in Copenhagen](#)
- Photograph - [Mother and child wearing gas masks](#)
- Photograph - [Home of an Italian family in Veneto](#)
- Book with photographs - [Women of the empire in wartime](#)
- Child's essay - [School essay written by a student about a fictitious attack on London](#)
- Photograph - [Looking at a portion of a Zeppelin bomb](#)

Recommended reading (short articles):

[Children's experiences of the First World War](#) by Dr Stacy Gillis and Dr Emma Short
[Women at Home in a World at War](#) by Professor Susan R Grayzel

External links:

[BBC](#)

Key questions

- What effect did the war have on civilian life? How did this vary across different countries?
- To what extent did the war affect lives in the UK and across Europe?

Activities

- 1.) Students work together to deconstruct the historical sources. What can they reveal about civilian life during the war in different countries?
- 2.) Students use the information gleaned from the sources, plus additional research, as inspiration to create historical fiction stories about civilian life during World War One.
- 3.) Students may choose to: a) use the evidence, as a whole, to construct their stories b) hone in on aspects that they have found significant c) focus on the experience from a

particular country that they have found interesting. Less able students may require some additional structure.