

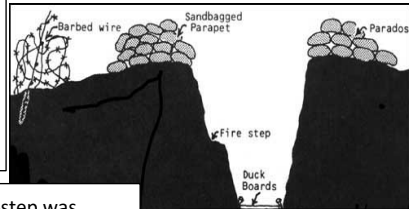
Year 9 Knowledge Organiser - Life During The First World War.

1. Keywords

Keyword	Definition
Recruitment	Getting people to join something. The government realised that the British Army wasn't large enough and it needed to 'recruit' more men as soldiers
Propaganda	Using the media to persuade people. The government employed artists to create posters that persuaded men to 'join up' and become soldiers.
Censorship	To 'block out' information. The government censored any information that made the war seem bad or a failure. They wanted 'morale' to be kept up.
Morale	Feeling positive about something.
Patriotism	Feeling proud of your country.
Conscientious objector	Someone who refused to become a soldier – as they believed war was wrong. These people were often criticised by others and the government made them contribute to the war by being stretcher bearers.
Western Front	The line of trenches that ran along Western Europe from Belgium to France. Most British soldiers served here.
Eastern Front	The line of trenches East of Germany where the Russians fought against Germans and Austrians. A number of Britain's EMPIRE troops fought here also.

2. A Trench – how did they look?

Barbed wire was meant to stop enemy soldiers getting to the trench.



The fire-step was there so you could 'step up' and fire your rifle at any enemies coming towards you

Duck-boards kept your feet out of the water that gathered at the bottom of the trench. Wet feet could lead to trench-foot disease

3. How did trenches work in battle?

- Trenches ran for miles, often in wiggly lines.
- The primary purpose was to give cover and protection from gunfire.
- They were dug quickly and reinforced when possible.
- There were different types – reserve trenches were further 'behind the lines' (fighting) and were a place for soldiers to take a break from fighting, supply trenches held weapons and food, front-line trenches were the most dangerous and were right next to the fighting.
- The space between the trenches was called 'no-man's land' – because no man owned it.



Artillery were huge guns that shot bombs or shells.

4. Weapons



The Lee Enfield Rifle and Bayonet (blade)

Machine Gun



Gas



Tanks



5. Conditions in the Trenches

- Rats as big as cats fed off the dead bodies of men.
- Shell-shock often caused men to have complete nervous breakdowns.
- It was difficult to stay clean as washing facilities were very limited – lice and diseases like dysentery and TB became common.
- Soldiers spent about a week in a front-line trench before being moved further away from the lines to have a break.
- Men weren't fighting all of the time – most of the fighting happened in the early hours of the morning. During the day men tried to sleep, they wrote letters and poems, they played cards and smoked. They even told jokes to keep morale up!
- British soldiers were generally well-fed – for some poorer soldiers it was better food than they would



6. Key Battles

Name	Where	When	What
Verdun	North-East France	Feb-Dec 1916	The Germans attacked this fortified city. Both sides tried to wear the other down in a 'war of attrition'.
The Somme	Northern France	July-November 1916	Largest battle of the war. British forces were led by Haig. He is often criticised for continuing to send men 'over the top'.
Passchendaele	Belgium	July – November 1917	British and French attempt to break through German lines. Known for the mud caused by heavy bombing.
Gallipoli	Turkey	February 1915	British, Empire and French troops fought the Turkish. They tried to take control of a strait of water so they could get supplies to Russia.