

Case Study

The **MUSEUM** of **SOMERSET**



Somerset Remembers the First World War



Session title: Somerset Remembers the First World War **Session length:** Whole day workshop

Site: Museum of Somerset

Suitable for: KS1 & 2

Case Study information

Blackbrook Primary School at the Museum of Somerset.

In 2014 Somerset Heritage Service launched a project to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, following a grant of £66,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The 'Somerset Remembers' project explored the impact and long-term effect of the conflict on the county, and looked at the many ways in which Somerset people, their families and communities have remembered the Great War.

Somerset Remembers learning outcomes:

- To understand the chronology and geography of the war
- To understand the importance of historical items and archival documents when exploring events of the past
- To explore the role of children during the war
- To explore a variety of themes related to WW1 in Somerset

Teacher feedback

A teacher from Blackbrook commented on the experience:

“Fantastic and really meaningful activities, lots we could use back in the classroom. A great introduction to the First World War.”

To book

To find out more about booking museum sessions, activities or to enquire about a subscription to our services please contact:

✉ learning@swheritage.org.uk ☎ 01823 347451



Case Study

The **MUSEUM** of **SOMERSET**

Somerset Remembers the First World War



Arriving at the museum

The older children from Blackbrook Primary School visited the Museum of Somerset over four days. The museum session provided a unique opportunity for students to explore the history of the First World War and its impact on the people of Somerset.

Activities

To understand the experiences of children during the war KS2 children wrote messages to soldiers using dip pens and ink. The inspiration for this activity came from archive research completed during the Somerset Remembers Project. A newspaper article from 1914 told the story of Somerset children who had written messages and placed them in socks for the soldiers. Exactly 100 years later we asked students to do the same activity.

The children also visited the temporary exhibition titled 'Somerset Remembers'. This presented children with lots of stories of Somerset events and people relating to the First World War. Each story had an object to inspire or illustrate the narrative. For example, a newspaper article about the overpricing of milk was accompanied by a large early 20th century milk churn. The children were provided with a trail and used this to inspire discussion as well as identify artefacts. Before the children left the galleries the teacher spoke to their small group, finding out what they had discovered.

When the children dressed up in replica costume we encouraged them to think about people's experiences. Some children were able to discuss their characters and consider why they would have had their photographs taken.

Special activities

Additionally, Year 6 children were able to create their own animations. Using simple techniques and lots of different materials students explored their own ideas about the war.

To book

To find out more about booking museum sessions, activities or to enquire about a subscription to our services please contact:

 learning@swheritage.org.uk  01823 347451

