

Overview of the lesson:

This KS2 activity links with English and PHSE and focuses on the mementoes postal workers at war sent home to loved ones.



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Pupils assemble a small box of 'mementoes' and a message to send someone fighting in a foreign war

Before undertaking this activity, pupils are likely to have:

- ◆ Talked about aspects of their lives that inspire special memories – happy, funny and sad
- ◆ Considered what it means/meant to soldiers to have reminders of home
- ◆ Thought about items that would remind them of their home and family
- ◆ Researched the the British Postal Museum & Archive collections for information about items that soldiers sent home during the First World War
- ◆ Discussed practicalities such as weight, postage, size and perishability

Extension activities could include:

- ◆ **English:** Reading *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae (see Reading List) writing a poem to enclose in the box
- ◆ **Design & Technology:** designing and making a box in which to save/send mementoes
- ◆ **KS3:** Ask pupils to assemble mementoes to an ex pupil or other significant person in their lives who has died; relate the activity to modern day conflict e.g. Afghanistan

To do:

- ◆ Ask pupils to bring in items that they take with them when away from home, and a small box
- ◆ Assemble materials for writing messages and drawing small pictures to enclose in the box

Success criteria**By the end of the project:**

- ◆ All pupils will be aware of the need for comfort at certain times such as war
- ◆ All pupils will have compiled mementoes and messages to send 'home'
- ◆ All pupils will know how to address and send a parcel correctly
- ◆ Some pupils will want to investigate this topic further

**Key terms**

Memento
Memorial
Memory

ACTIVITY 9 A BOX OF MEMORIES

Imagine a loved one is fighting in a war
a long way from home

Your task is to put together a small box of things to remind him or her of home and to keep their spirits up.

Things to think about:

- ◆ Choose something to remind him or her of your family for example a photograph, a small toy, a tiny favourite object
- ◆ Write a short message to keep his or her spirits up
- ◆ Draw a picture of something to remind him or her of family life.



Things to do

- ◆ Wrap your box up neatly and write the address for the country your parcel may be going to. Don't forget post codes.
- ◆ Draw some pretend stamps including the correct sum of money.

Things to find out

- ◆ Weigh your parcel and find out on the internet on Royal Mail's website how much it might cost to send.

