

In the Trenches

Trench Warfare in World War I

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Published by *K20 Center*

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Grade Level	9th – 12th Grade	**Time Frame**	90 minutes
Subject	Social Studies	**Duration**	1-2 class period(s)
Course	World History		

Essential Question

How was World War I fought?

Summary

In this lesson, students analyze how trench warfare affected soldiers in World War I by reading a letter by a soldier, interacting with a trench warfare museum exhibit, and viewing a video about trench warfare. Students extend their learning by crafting an article or narrative about trench warfare and then respond to an Exit Ticket question to summarize their learning.

Snapshot

Engage

Students begin an Inside Out handout based on what they know about trench warfare.

Explore

Students visit a virtual museum exhibit about World War I and continue filling out the Inside Out handout.

Explain

Students watch a video about trench warfare. They then continue working on their Inside Out handouts and share what they have learned in pairs.

Extend

Students use the Tic Tac Tell strategy and new vocabulary words to construct a piece of creative writing in a format of their choice.

Evaluate

Students complete an Exit Ticket by answering the question, "How did trench warfare affect soldiers in WWI?"

Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Reading (6-12)

PPV301: Recognize a clear intent of an author or narrator in somewhat challenging passages

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Writing (6-12)

I&A 402: Analyzing critical elements of an issue and differing perspectives on it. A score in this range indicates that the writer is able to: -Establish and employ a relevant context for analysis -Recognize implications, complexities and tensions, and/or underlying values and assumptions
D&S 301: Building and strengthening the argument. A score in this range indicates that the writer is able to: -Make use of mostly relevant reasoning and examples to support the thesis and arrive at a general or simplistic understanding of the issue -Offer a rationale that largely clarifies the argument -Provide elaboration of ideas and analysis that is somewhat repetitive or imprecise

Oklahoma Academic Standards SOCIAL STUDIES (Modern World History)

MWH.C.6.1.B: Summarize the significant events of World War I and why the conflict was considered a total war (e.g., use of industrial and chemical weapons, prolonged trench warfare, expansion into a global conflict) with a focus on the war's significant turning points (e.g., Battles of the Marne, Verdun, the Somme).

Attachments

- Inside Out—In the Trenches - Spanish.docx
- Inside Out—In the Trenches - Spanish.pdf
- Inside Out—In the Trenches.docx
- Inside Out—In the Trenches.pdf
- Lesson Slides—In the Trenches.pptx
- Tic Tac Tell Student Example—In the Trenches.docx
- Tic Tac Tell Student Example—In the Trenches.pdf
- Tic Tac Tell—In the Trenches - Spanish.docx
- Tic Tac Tell—In the Trenches - Spanish.pdf
- Tic Tac Tell—In the Trenches.docx
- Tic Tac Tell—In the Trenches.pdf

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- Tic Tac Tell Student Example document (attached)
- Inside Out handout (attached, one per student)
- Tic Tac Tell handout (attached, one per student)
- Internet-enabled student devices (optional, one per student)
- Headphones (optional, one per student)
- Pens/pencils
- Notebook paper
- Sticky notes (one per student)

10 minutes

Engage

Use the attached **Lesson Slides** to guide the lesson. Introduce students to the Inside Out strategy and display **slide 3.**

Pass out the attached **Inside Out** handout. Invite students to think for a few moments about World War I and trench warfare. Tell students to write in the innermost circle on the handout everything that comes to mind about trench warfare. After providing enough time for this, ask for a few volunteers to share what they have written.

Move to **slide 4** and review the essential question for students: “How was World War I fought?” Show **slide 5** and briefly go over the lesson objective.

15 minutes

Explore

Show **slide 6** and direct students to access The National WWI Museum and Memorial's Trenches of World War I virtual exhibit on their personal devices by navigating to the short url on the slide: https://k20.ou.edu/of

Invite students to navigate through the virtual exhibit on their own and listen to the information provided. Before they begin, show **slide 7** and tell students to note whatever new information they learn about trench warfare to the second circle of their Inside Out handouts.

Once students have had time to experience the exhibit, ask students to share what they have written down with a partner. Each student should add any new information they learn from their partner to the second circle of the Inside Out handout.

20 minutes

Explain

Invite students to watch a video about trench warfare to keep building their knowledge.

Show **slide 8** and play the *Why Life of a WWI Soldier in the Trenches SUCKED* video for students.

Embedded video
https://youtube.com/watch?v=iDUqUpNWtl4

Show **slide 9** and have students list what new information they learned in the outermost circle on their Inside Out handouts.

Next, show **slide 10**. Tell students to talk with their partner about the video and discuss what life was like in the trenches. Once students have discussed, have each pair of partners group up with another pair to create groups of four. Have groups compare the information they recorded. Have all students add information they learned from each other to the outermost circle of their handouts.

Ask for a volunteer from each group to share what they have learned and discussed about trench warfare.

Have students turn back to their groups. Ask students to consider how trench warfare affected soldiers during World War I. Allow more time for small group discussion before asking for volunteers to share with the class again. Use these responses to facilitate a class discussion about the impact of trench warfare on World War I and on the soldiers who fought in it.

30 minutes

Extend

Pass out the attached **Tic Tac Tell** handout and show **slide 11.** Invite students to produce a short piece of creative writing about trench warfare using certain vocabulary words on the Tic Tac Tell handout. Ask students to choose their preferred creative writing format, such as:

- News article
- Diary entry
- Letter
- Narrative
- Another format of their choosing

Introduce the Tic Tac Tell strategy to the class, and have students study their handouts. Have each student select vocabulary words by drawing two straight lines (vertical, horizontal, and/or diagonal) through the tic tac toe arrangement on their handout. This leaves each student with 5–6 words of their choice to use in their creative writing.

Students should follow the instructions on the handout, writing one or more paragraphs in their preferred format while including their selected 5–6 vocabulary words. Provide enough time for students to finish writing.

Have each student find a partner and swap their creative writing pieces. After students have read their partner's writing, ask for a few volunteers to read their own writing to the class.

Sample Student Response: Tic Tac Tell

See the attached **Tic Tac Tell Student Example** for a sample student response. This sample is laid out in a letter format.

Optional Career Connection Activity

To further extend students' learning about the career field of museum curation, show this *K20 ICAP - Art Museum Assistant Registrar - In the Trenches* video in which Christina Naruszewicz discusses her job at the OKC Museum of Art.

Embedded video

https://youtube.com/watch?v=LDkKfKNimnY

After the video, have students pair up to discuss what it would be like to work in a museum. Ask for volunteers to share what they discussed.

5 minutes

Evaluate

Show **slide 12**. Pass out a sticky note to each student. On these notes, have students respond to the Exit Ticket question on the slide: "How did trench warfare affect soldiers in World War I?"

Consider having students stick their sticky note responses somewhere in the classroom or on the back of their Inside Out handouts. Use students' Exit Tickets and their creative writing pieces to assess student understanding of the lesson content.

Resources

- Google. (n.d.). *Trenches of World War I: An immersive tour* [Interactive activity]. Google Arts & Culture. Retrieved December 17, 2021, from https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/IQLS5svcf515Iw
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Bell ringers and exit tickets. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/125
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Inside out. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/93
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Tic tac tell. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/1920
- K20 Center. (2022, July 12). *K20 ICAP - Art museum assistant registrar - In the trenches* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDkKfKNimnY
- The Infographics Show. (2020, April 12). *Why life of a WWI soldier in the trenches SUCKED* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDUqUpNWtl4