

First World War volunteers



In this document you will find:

- An overview of the resource
- How the resource is organised and what is included in: the introduction; modules one, two and three
- How to use the modules or adapt them to your setting
- Delivery support: how the activities are structured
- How to ask further questions
- Further resources

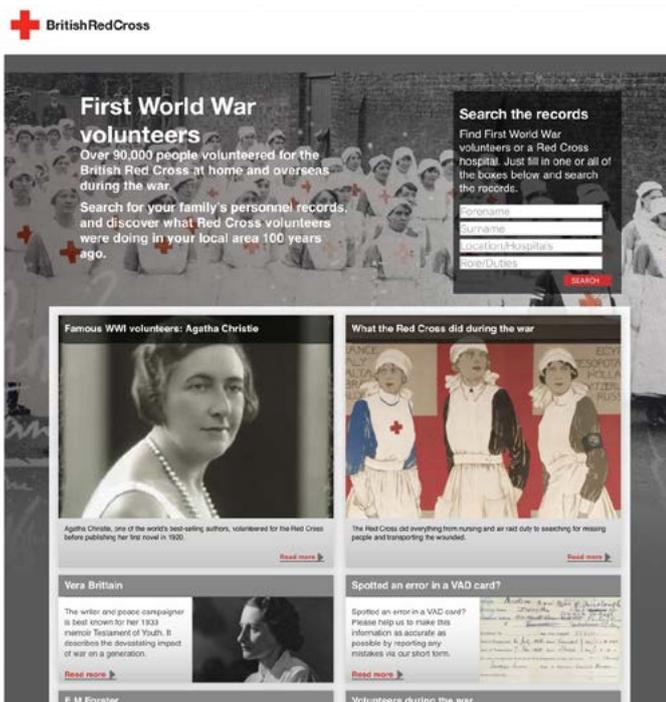
Overview

2018 marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. This teaching toolkit has been designed for teachers to use with pupils aged 11–16 alongside a unique interactive online archive of over 90,000 volunteer records from WWI. The resource uses powerful archive letters, case studies and photographs to explore the human impact of war, with activities to help young people apply what they learn to their own lives.

This resource can be delivered over a multiple lessons in one subject or as a cross curricula project. Teachers can tailor the sessions to their classes by choosing activities from the modules in the toolkit:

- **The power of volunteering**
- **Protections in war**
- **Humanity in action**

Through history, citizenship and literacy activities in the modules in this teaching package, young people can learn more about the humanitarian impact of conflict. To make the most of the resource, students will require Internet access to engage with the archive, research real-life volunteers and discuss different aspects of WWI. They will also apply this knowledge to their own lives, thinking about how they can help others and build their own resilience.



First World War volunteers
Over 90,000 people volunteered for the British Red Cross at home and overseas during the war.
Search for your family's personal records, and discover what Red Cross volunteers were doing in your local area 100 years ago.

Search the records
Find First World War volunteers or a Red Cross hospital. Just fill in one or all of the boxes below and search the records.

Forename
Surname
Location@hospital
Join Dates

Famous WWI volunteers: Agatha Christie
Agatha Christie, one of the world's best-selling authors, volunteered for the Red Cross before publishing her first novel in 1920.

What the Red Cross did during the war
The Red Cross did everything from nursing and air raid duty to searching for missing people and transporting the wounded.

Vera Brittain
The writer and peace campaigner is best known for her 1933 memoir 'Testament of Youth'. It describes the devastating impact of war on a generation.

Spotted an error in a VAD card?
Spotted an error in a VAD card? Please help us to make this information as accurate as possible by reporting any mistakes via our report form.

The power of kindness

How the resource is organised

The resource is divided into three modules:

- **The power of volunteering**
- **Protections in war**
- **Humanity in action**

Each module is divided into parts exploring different aspects of the module's theme. Modules can be used independently or together as follows:

Introduction

Get learners thinking about the topic of conflict and the impact of WWI through the themes of the power of volunteering, protections in war and humanity in action with this PowerPoint presentation and critical thinking questions (all included in the supporting PowerPoint).

Module one: The power of volunteering

In this module, learners will:

- Increase their awareness of what life would have been like as a VAD
- Explore what moves people to help others and the qualities they have
- Consider what they have learned and how this can help them cope with challenges in their own lives
- Increase their understanding of what was needed in an auxiliary hospital, and compare this to centres used in modern-day emergencies
- Discuss the traditional roles of women before WWI and the opportunities women had during the war and afterwards



Within this module there are three parts exploring the theme of volunteering:

Part 1: The volunteers

Learners explore life as a VAD during World War I, increasing their understanding of the people involved and the places where they volunteered. Using the online archive of VAD records, young people they will find out more about individual volunteers and what skills and qualities they needed to carry out their tasks. They will apply what they have learned to their own lives, in particular considering what skills and qualities they themselves could bring to a volunteer role.

Part 2: Auxiliary hospitals

Learners research auxiliary hospitals during WWI and find hospitals that were in their local area or region. They will consider what was needed in an auxiliary hospital, designing their own, and will compare their designs with a case study of a centre used in emergencies today.

Part 3: Women volunteers

Looking at archive record cards of women volunteers, learners will consider the roles that women carried out during WWI. They will think about how women's roles changed during the war, and the effect that had on society and women's lives afterwards.



Module two: Protections in war

In this module, learners will:

- Consider why we need rules and how they are connected to protections for people.
- Find out about the rules that protected prisoners of war (POW) during WWI.
- Learn about international humanitarian law or “the rules of war” that protect people affected by armed conflict today.
- Learn about food parcels and how they helped the POWs.
- Explore how the Red Cross emblem helps protect certain people during conflict.
- Discover how the Red Cross helps people in conflicts around the world.

Within this module there are three parts exploring the theme of protections in war:

Part 1: Protections in war

Learners think about why we have rules and the laws that are in place to protect people during armed conflict (Geneva Conventions). They will learn about how these conventions became the foundation of International Humanitarian Law. Finally, they will find out how prisoners of war were protected, and the work the VADs did to help them during WWI.

Part 2: The Red Cross emblem and helping people affected by conflict

By watching a short film about the story of the Red Cross, learners will gain an understanding of the Red Cross emblem and its role in protecting people during conflict. They will also learn about the humanitarian role of the Red Cross during armed conflict today.

Module three: Humanity in action

In this module, learners will:

- Learn about the missing and wounded service carried out by VADs in WWI, exploring the different aspects of this work, including how to communicate bad news sensitively.
- Consider the meaning of the word “humanity” and how this was shown by the VADs.
- Research places where the VADs supported refugees and the services they provided.
- Develop understanding of the difficulties modern-day refugees face, and how they can help refugees to feel welcome.
- Examine how funds were raised to support the work of the VADs during WWI and will consider how spending was prioritised to help the most people.
- Compare fundraising methods from WWI with those of today, and think about how they could raise funds to support charity appeals.

Within this module there are three parts exploring the theme of humanity in action:

Part 1: Missing and wounded service

Learners explore the role of a VAD searcher: what they did and how they carried out their work. They will consider how best to communicate bad news sensitively, and will look at a real letter from the British Red Cross WWI archive sent by the missing and wounded service.

Part 2: Refugee service

Looking at the places where the VADs provided support, learners will consider the different refugee services provided, plotting this on a map from the time. They will discuss refugees today, and think about how they could help them feel welcome.

Part 3: Fundraising

By working with a Red Cross leaflet from WWI and current appeals, learners will think about the language used in fundraising appeals. They will consider how funds were assigned to different needs and will look at fundraising methods today and how they could design their own fundraising project.

