L.O. Develop note-taking skills to gather information from research.

# The Animal Soldiers of World War One

Let's re-tell the whole piece of text, using only the symbols from our story map.  How much of it can you remember, without looking at the map?

Now that we are very familiar with the text we can look at the **layout and language** choices; it's time to 'box up' the text, so we can learn how to organise our information well too.

Starting with the first paragraph, what purpose(s) does this section have? What is the intended effect on the reader? Have a quick discussion with your partner and share your ideas with the class.

The main body of the text is quite different to the introduction; this is where the toolkit comes into play.

With your partner, decide on the parts of the writer's toolkit that have been used in each section.  Each time you find a feature, try to identify the **effect** it has on the reader.   In other words, what's the point? **Why** did the author choose the feature**?**

Share your ideas with the class.

## How do our shared ideas compare with the box-up sheet ?

1

Short introduction of the overall subject that captures the reader's attention – present tense used to address reader. General information that summarises the whole text.

2

Section one about one aspect of the subject, opening with a 'topic' sentence. Range of conjunctions (compare & explain ideas). Detailed definition. Past tense for historical info. Technical vocab for precision.

3

Section opened with 'topic' sentence about another aspect of the report, using a conjunction to **link** to previous section. Formal style used, but still addresses reader to keep their interest.

4

Contrasting conjunction links to previous section. 'Topic' opener refers to sub-heading. Factual details & technical language expand a final section. Specific example detailed for interest. Evidence used for authority.

5

Conclusion rounds off & summarises whole topic, linking to introduction. Closing comment (with opinion) links historical topic to present day.

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We will be writing our own reports about the animals of World War One, but before we do, we need to become **experts** about the subject.  This requires some research, and for this to be successful, we need to use <u>note-taking</u> effectively.

Note-taking is **not** copying everything you read; it's **not** about writing full sentences; and it **doesn't** even involve always using whole words.
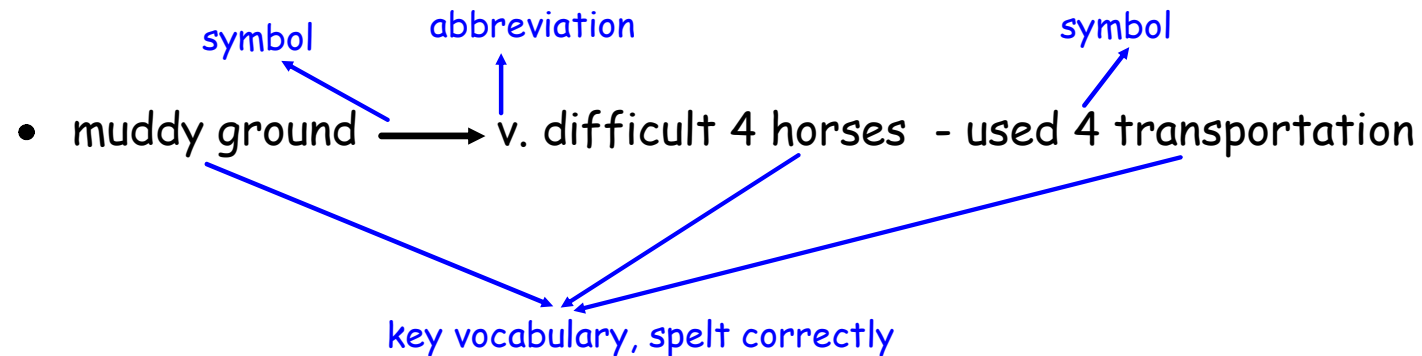
Taking notes is a skill that starts with reading a source text **fully**, in order to understand it.  You should then **skim** through again to find the parts you want to extract, the parts you think that **your reader will find interesting**.

When you have found an interesting fact, you need to record it in a way that is easy for you to **retrieve** the information quickly.  Here are some tips:

1.     Use bullet points for each piece of information, so you can find them easily

2.     Don't use full sentences - miss out any unnecessary words e.g. *the, a, are*

3.     Use quick symbols to represent words where you can e.g.

 **+** could stand for *and*        @ for *at*        ⟶ for *means that* or *as a result*

4.     Use abbreviations (shortened words)  e.g. *info.  WW1  16 mil.*

Here's an example:

The muddy ground made it very difficult for horses, so they were used for transportation instead.

symbol    abbreviation                symbol

- muddy ground ⟶ v. difficult 4 horses  - used 4 transportation

key vocabulary, spelt correctly

Time to find out about some animals that did their bit in the First World War. Choose any two, or three, and make notes in your book. Remember - what do you think your *reader* will find interesting?

Additional Information about Dogs

**Sentry Dogs** These dogs stayed with one soldier or guard and were taught to give a warning sound such as growl or bark when they sensed a stranger in the area or close to camp. Many Dobermans were used as sentry dogs.

**Scout Dogs** These were dogs used to find the enemy. They were trained to be very quiet and well-behaved while they walked alongside soldiers patrolling the area. They could detect smells up to 1000 yards away which was much better than the sense of any man. Unlike sentry dogs, they were trained not to bark as this would draw attention to the soldiers. Instead they would give a silent signal, like raising their tail, to let soldiers know that the enemy was on his way.

**Casualty Dogs** These dogs were trained to find wounded or dying soldiers on the battlefield. They carried medical equipment so an injured soldier could treat himself and they would also stay beside a dying soldier to keep him company.

**Mascot Dogs** Many dogs provided comfort to soldiers during the war, often seen as members of the team and boosting morale, particularly for men who were recovering fro[...]. One of the most famous was Sergeant Stubby, an A[...] who served with the US 102ⁿᵈ Infantry regiment. Stubby wa[...] rier who served with the US 102 Infantry training, and when [...] corporal James Conroy during onto the troop ship[...] Conroy smuggled the dog bravery. At the e[...] many medals for his [...] home again!

Additional information about horses

Many of the horses used for the war came from farms, hunt stables and horse-drawn bus companies, and were shipped over to France along with the soldiers.

**Cavalry** Both sides used cavalry horses at the start of the war, using them to charge enemy infantry soldiers. It soon became obvious that the muddy conditions of the trenches made this impossible to sustain.

**Transport** Horses were mainly used for transporting supplies to where soldiers needed them, and for pulling heavy artillery. Carts and wagons were used, so the horses need to be strong to pull the heavy loads. They were much better at picking their way through mud and potholes than motorised vehicles, and so were highly valued by the soldiers. Indeed, their value was not just physical: the men who looked after them became attached to them emotionally and the horses became very important to the morale of the soldiers.

**Ambulance** Horses also carried wounded soldiers back to the hospital tents. Again, they needed to be strong for this, as a fully armed and equipped twelve-stone soldier was a lot heavier than a racing jockey.

Horses had a food ration of 20lbs (about 44kg) of grain per day. When grain was in short supply, German horses were fed sawdust cake. At the end of the war, 25,000 horses that served in the British army were returned to Britain.

Additional information about pigeons

Pigeons were used extensively in World War One, as they proved to be an extremely reliable way of sending messages. They were so important, that over 100,000 of them were used in the war, with an astonishing success rate of 95% getting through to their destination with their message

**Messengers** Their natural homing instinct meant that pigeons could find their way back to their handlers, even in the midst of a chaotic battle. At the battle of Marne in 1914, as the French troops advanced to push back the Germans, the soldiers took their pigeon lofts ('houses') with them. Many of the pigeons were 'on duty' during the battle, taking messages backwards and forwards from the trenches to French headquarters, but incredibly, every single bird made it back safely home, even though their lofts had moved forwards while they were flying.

The speed at which the birds could fly meant that it was nearly impossible to shoot them, so they were able to deliver messages safely and during the war saved many lives.

**Morale** The pigeon handlers took great care of their birds, which of course helped the men to focus on other things, rather than just the war. A returning pigeon with an important message would have been a very welcome sight to the whole regiment.
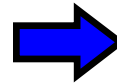
Additional information about cats

An estimated half a million cats served in the trenches of World War One [...] essential duties.

**Rat-catchers** Cats were primarily brought in to control the rodent populati[...] Rats and mice were a terrible problem for the soldiers – a single breeding [...] be responsible for up to 900 offspring in a year, so rat traps were not enoug[...] able to keep the numbers of rats down to manageable levels

**Messengers** Some cats were used to carry messages in small containers tha[...] attached to their collars. Because cats could freely cross no-man's land, duri[...] Christmas Truce of 1914, many soldiers used them to send messages of peac[...] trenches. They did this by tying friendly notes to the cats' collars and sending [...] the enemy soldiers. Some officers were not very pleased with this and consider[...] to be spying for the enemy!

**Morale** Cats are affectionate animals, so kept many soldiers company during their time in the bunkers or living quarters. The men foun[...] that playing with the cats helped them relax and forget abo[...] for a few minutes.

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