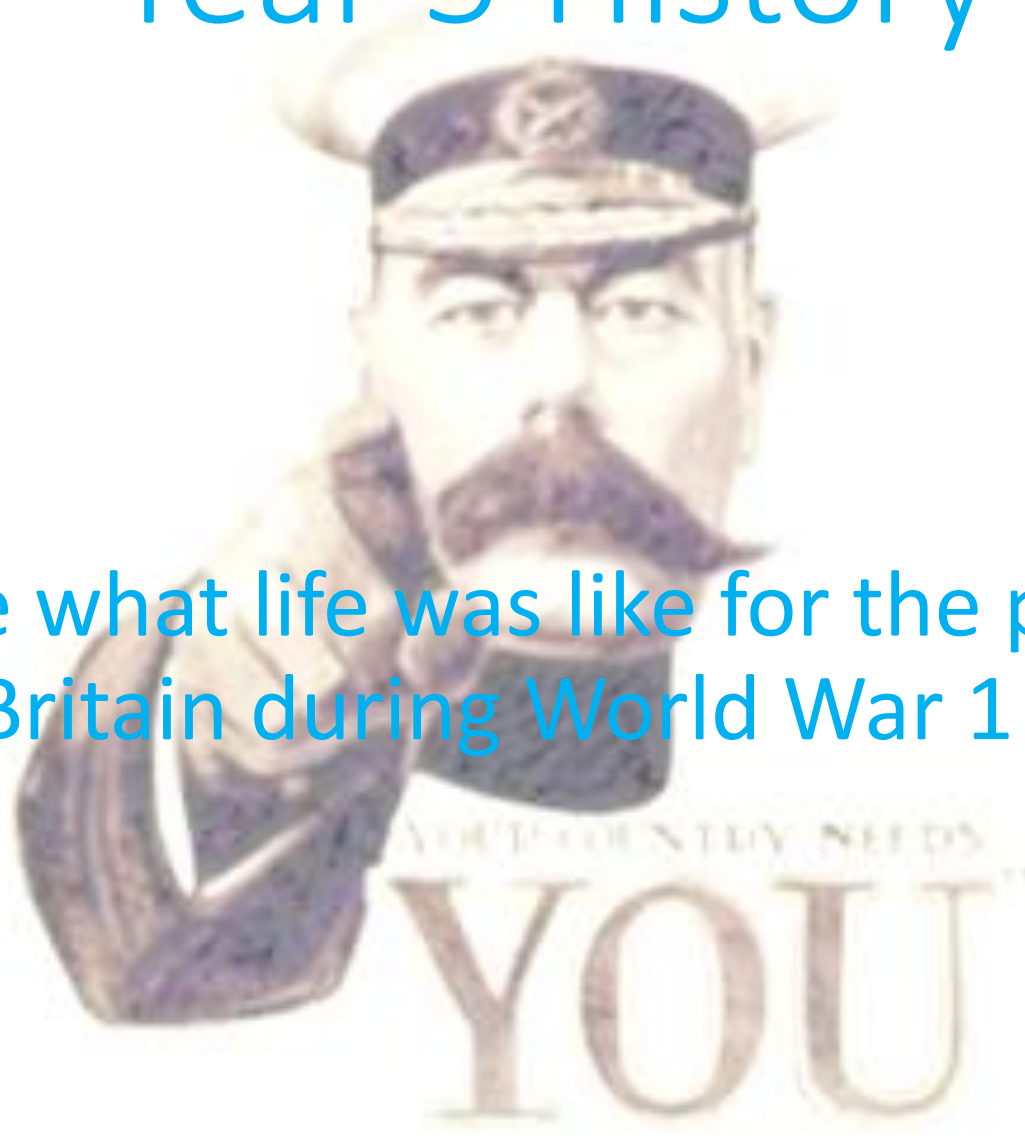


# Year 5 History

To explore what life was like for the people of  
Britain during World War 1



LO: To explore what life was like for the people of Britain during World War 1

The last time we visited WW1 was in the Autumn term when we talked about

- The events that led to the start of WW1
- What life was like on the Western Front
- The involvement of animals in WW1

Let's watch a quick recap about how it all began from [Horrible Histories](#)

# Useful vocabulary

- Patriotism – devoted to and support for one's country
- Recruitment – finding suitable people to fill roles e.g. a soldier
- Pals Battalion – men who joined the army with their friends, neighbours or colleagues and served together
- Morale – the enthusiasm of a person or group

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Almost nine million men joined and fought in the British Army during WW1.

What do you think life was like at home during the war?



How do you think people in Britain felt about the war?

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At the beginning of the war Britain was one of the most powerful countries in the world. The British had a large empire which stretched to many places around the globe. Being an island nation, they had developed a powerful navy.

When war was declared on Germany, a wave of **patriotism** spread across the country. People were confident that the war wouldn't last long and it would be over by Christmas'.

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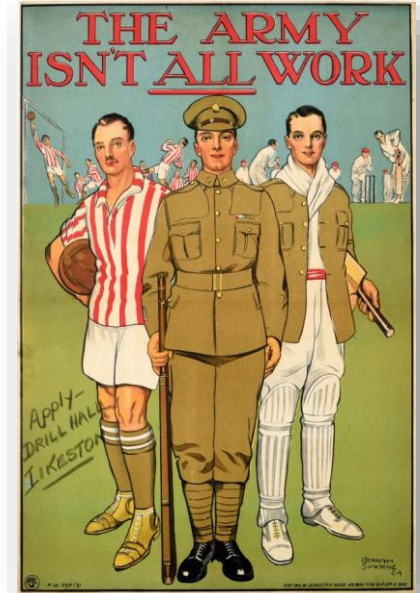
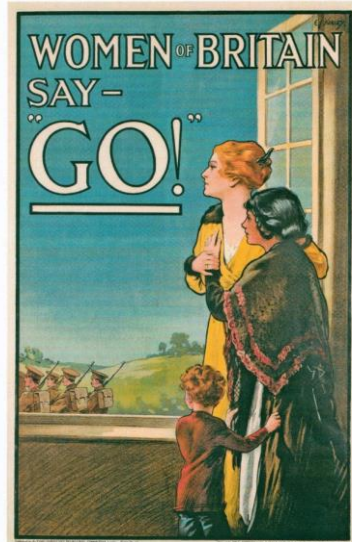
120,000 men signed up to the army; however, as the war went on, officials in the army like Lord Kitchener realised that a large army was going to be a key factor in winning the war against the Central Powers. He immediately set up several **recruitment** schemes to convince more men to join the army.



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Lord Kitchener used posters to persuade men to join up before compulsory conscription (any able bodied man aged 18 – 41 had to join the army) was introduced in 1916.

We will explore some of the posters in a later art lesson; here are a few examples

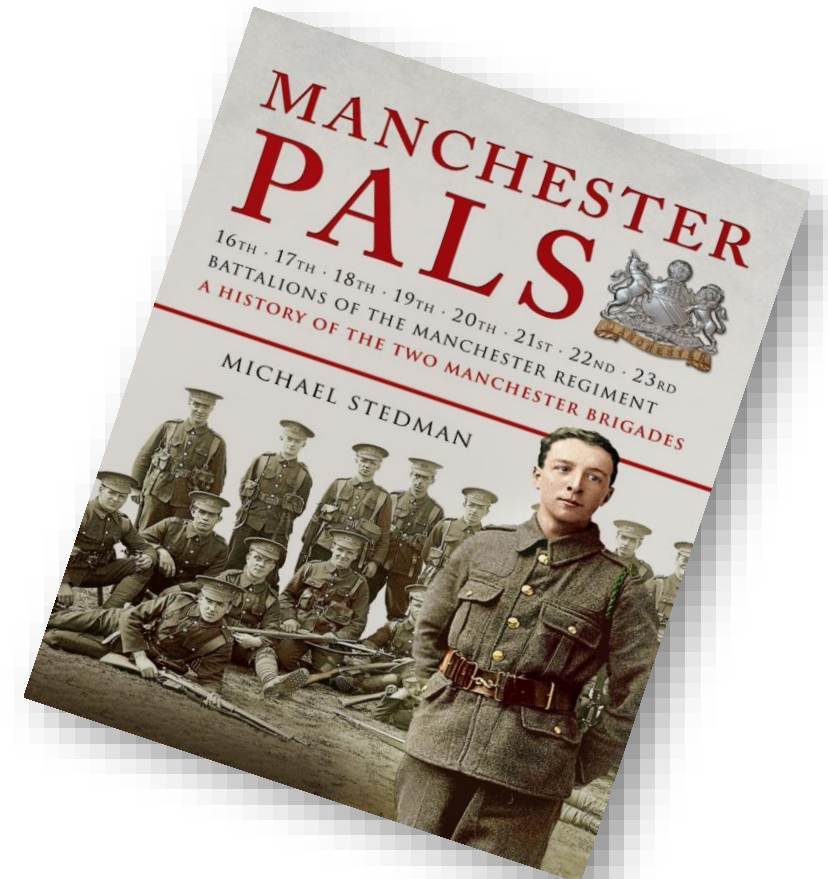




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Kitchener did as much as he could to make sure Britain had a large army. He used ideas such as allowing men to sign up and serve with their friends from home in the 'Pals Battalion' initiative.

Many young boys would lie about their age in order to sign up to the army. They wanted to serve their country and many of them from poorer backgrounds thought that it would improve life for them.





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With so many fathers, husbands, brothers and sons going to war, the women and children of Britain had to do their part to support the war effort from the home front.

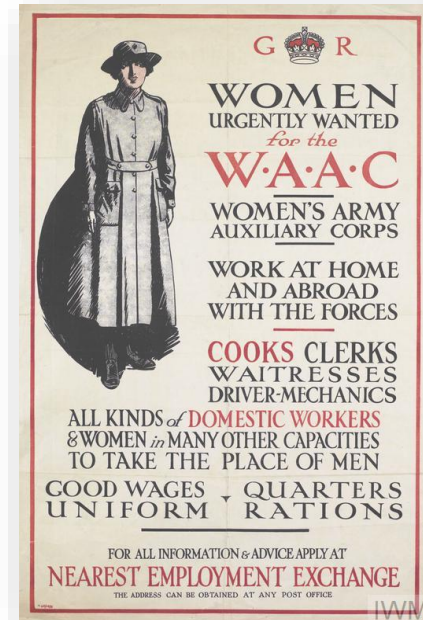
More posters were created to increase morale for people at home. They called people to 'do their bit' for the war effort and support the soldiers who had gone to war.



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Women filled all kinds of roles. Any roles that used to be mainly male orientated, such as policemen, firemen and teachers, needed women to step into these jobs.

Women also took on new roles which helped with the war. Running communication stations and delivering messages was vital in making sure information reached the relevant people.



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## How did Boy Scouts help the war effort?

- They carried messages on behalf of the War Office.
- They guarded railway lines, water reservoirs and coastline.
- They watched the skies for attacks and sounded their bugles (a type of brass instrument) to signal when an air raid was over.
- Rifle ranges were opened where boys learnt how to shoot, so they could help to defend Britain if it was invaded.



Here we can see a young boy scout delivering a message to a soldier at the war office.



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## How did Girls Guides help the war effort?

- They knitted socks and scarves to help keep British soldiers warm.
- They learned first aid so they could help with injuries.
- They carried important messages and helped deliver milk.
- Some reports even suggest that Girl Guides acted as messengers for the British Secret Service, MI5. Boy Scouts were apparently the first choice for this work, but they turned out to be too naughty and talkative!



## LO: To explore what life was like for the people of Britain during World War 1

Now it's over to you. Choose the character of either a girl guide or a boy scout and write a diary entry of a typical day for you during the war.

Remember- for a diary entry you will need

- To write using an informal tone
- To use the first person (I, me, we etc)
- Include details of what sort of things that you would have done to help with the war effort

Try and post your work on to Seesaw so that I can read it.

Good luck!

