

Objective

By the end of this lesson, Zenia will have a deeper understanding of World War I, particularly the experiences of soldiers in the trenches. She will be able to express these experiences creatively through writing letters from the perspective of a soldier, helping her empathize with the historical context and human emotions involved in the war.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pen or pencil for writing letters.
- A comfortable space for writing and thinking.
- Basic knowledge about World War I, including key events and the role of trench warfare.
- Optional: A quiet place for reflection and reading about soldiers' experiences (if available online or in books).

Activities

• Watch a Short Video on WW1

Begin the lesson by watching a short educational video about World War I, focusing on trench warfare. Take notes on key points that resonate with you.

• Research Soldier Experiences

Spend some time researching the daily life of soldiers in the trenches. Look for details about their challenges, fears, and camaraderie. This will provide a foundation for your letters.

• Write Letters from the Trenches

Create a series of letters from the perspective of a soldier in the trenches. Use your research to include vivid descriptions of life, emotions, and thoughts. Aim to write at least three letters to different recipients, such as family, friends, or fellow soldiers.

• Share Your Letters

Once the letters are written, share them with a family member or read them aloud. Discuss the emotions and thoughts expressed in the letters and how they relate to the historical context of World War I.

Talking Points

- "World War I was a global conflict that lasted from 1914 to 1918, involving many countries and resulting in significant changes in the world."
- "Trench warfare was a common tactic used during WWI, where soldiers lived in deep trenches to protect themselves from enemy fire."
- "Life in the trenches was harsh; soldiers faced not only the enemy but also harsh weather, unsanitary conditions, and the constant threat of illness."
- "Letters were a vital means of communication for soldiers, allowing them to connect with loved ones and share their experiences."
- "Empathy is crucial in understanding history; by writing letters from a soldier's perspective, we can better appreciate their sacrifices and struggles."