



1914—1918

EXPLORING THE
IRISH EXPERIENCE



NLI WWI LEARNING RESOURCES

Leaving Certificate Students worksheet

NAME:

SCHOOL:

WHEN YOU VISIT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Welcome to World War: Ireland. In this exhibition you'll find out about how the War affected Ireland and what it was like for Irish people with different backgrounds and beliefs.

You can complete the questions in any order, so if it's a bit busy at one part of the exhibition, you might like to try a different question and come back when it's quieter.

A GLOBAL WAR

World War I was a new kind of conflict: a war of attrition, however in 1914 people in Ireland had little idea of what was in store. Instead they faced a variety of messages about the coming conflict.

1 Have a look at the items from the National Library collection which appear in 'Road to War' (the screen to the left of the world map). What kind of sources can you identify?

2 Do you think any of these sources are propaganda? If so, write the down why you think this is the case

CHALLENGING CHOICES

Irish people had conflicting choices about what to do in response to the outbreak of World War I. Their decisions were shaped by their own circumstances and by politics and society in Ireland at the time, which was divided over the issue of Home Rule.

- 3** Take a look at the exhibition. Pick out the different ways Irish people reacted to the war. Explain the reasons for their choices.

- 4** Choose one item from the display cases in front of 'Challenging Choices'. Does it support or oppose the war? What choice does it suggest other Irish people should make and why?




**'ACCOUNT YOURSELVES
AS MEN, NOT ONLY
FOR IRELAND ITSELF,
BUT WHEREVER THE
FIGHTING LINE EXTENDS,
IN DEFENCE OF RIGHT,
OF FREEDOM, AND
RELIGION IN THIS WAR.'**

John Redmond addressing Irish Volunteers,
Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, 10 September 1914.

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]





FRONT LINE LIVES

Many Irish soldiers were only a year or two older than you when they set off to fight in France, Belgium, Turkey and elsewhere. They were joined by thousands of people who served in medical and chaplaincy roles.

People at the front line kept in touch with friends and family back home using letters and postcards – over 12 million letters were delivered to soldiers by the British post office every week!

6 Read about the lives of Irish people at the front lines and examine the items in the display case (underneath 'Getting to the Front' and 'Armed Forces').

Imagine you are a soldier or non-combatant at the front line. Fill out this postcard with your thoughts about what the war is like.



LIFE AT HOME

For many women, daily life changed dramatically during the war - their roles in work, at home and within society were altered.

7 Use the touchscreen and read the text in ‘Life at Home’ and ‘The War and Everyday Life’ to get a sense of how life in Ireland changed during the war.

Can you find evidence of how the lives of women changed? Provide a list of changes, then write how you think women and men might have reacted to these changes:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

POETRY/MUSIC SECTION

Irish writers and artists worked to respond to the dramatic and terrible events of the war – some even fought themselves.

8 Choose one of the poems or songs on the listening post. What feelings does it express about the war? Describe the words and imagery it uses to communicate its message.



THANK YOU!
WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED VISITING
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

For more information please visit:

www.nli.ie

www.nli.ie/WWI

or email: learning@nli.ie