

Reading

Non-fiction

Years 5 & 6



The
Coombes
CE Primary School

Unit/Lesson focus: the aim of this unit of learning is to read and understand the text 'World War I: Bombardment'. We will be continuing to develop our VIPERS skills in answering questions on the text and also continuing to develop our reading at pace as well as with fluency and expression.

Text source – 'Comprehension Ninja' by Andrew Jennings

Unit Learning Objectives:

L.O.: To understand the vocabulary in a text

L.O.: To read with fluency and expression

L.O.: To answer retrieval questions based on my reading

L.O.: To answer inference and explanation questions based on my reading

L.O.: To sequence information based on my reading



Lesson 1

L.O.: To understand the vocabulary in a text

I can understand the vocabulary in a text.

I can also use the context of the word to help me decipher the meaning of unknown words.

I can even use a dictionary to research the meaning of unknown words.



Vocabulary focus:

bombarded

(verb – past tense)

When soldiers **bombard** a place, they continuously attack it with heavy gunfire or lots of bombs.

*bombarded (verb) = bombed, shelled,
blasted, blitzed*

Example Sentences

*Rebel forces have regularly **bombarded** the airport.*

*The German Navy **bombarded** towns on the east coast of England.*

Vocabulary focus:

sparked

(verb – past tense)

If one thing **sparks** another, it causes a second thing to start happening.

*sparked (verb) = started, instigated, stimulated,
provoked, excited*

Example Sentences

*What was it that **sparked** your interest in football?*

*The German attacks **sparked** a wave of anger in Britain.*

Vocabulary focus:

occur

(verb – present tense)

When something **occurs**, it happens.

occur (verb) = happen, take place, exist

Example Sentences

*If headaches **occur** at night, lack of fresh air (and therefore oxygen) is often the cause.*

*Britain was scared that further attacks would **occur** along the coastline.*

Vocabulary focus:

shell

(noun)

A **shell** is a weapon consisting of a metal container filled with explosives that can be fired from a large gun over long distances.

shell (noun) = bomb, explosive

Example Sentences

*Out on the streets, the **shells** continued to fall out of the sky.*

*1,100 **shells** fell on the town in forty minutes.*

Vocabulary focus:

shrapnel

(noun)

Shrapnel consists of small pieces of metal which are scattered from exploding bombs or shells.

shrapnel (noun) = fragment, projectile

Example Sentences

*He was hit by **shrapnel** from a grenade.*

***Shrapnel** from the attack can still be seen lodged into the walls of the buildings.*

Vocabulary focus:

enlist

(verb)

If someone **enlists** or is enlisted, they join the armed forces (army, navy, marines or air force).

enlist (verb) = join, recruit, secure, gather

Example Sentences

*Three thousand men **enlisted** into the army.*

*The government used the attacks to encourage men to **enlist** in the military.*

Vocabulary focus:

armistice

(noun)

An **armistice** is an agreement between countries at war to stop fighting and discuss ways of making peace.

armistice (noun) = truce, ceasefire

Example Sentences

*Finally, England signed an **armistice** with Germany.*

*On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Germany signed an **armistice** agreement.*

Task:

- 1) Read the text first in your head. *(The text is on the following three pages and saved as a separate document.)*
- 2) Read the text a second time out loud to yourself or a partner.
- 3) If there are any additional words that you are unsure about the meaning of, use a dictionary to look up the meanings of these words and then use them in a sentence of your own.



World War I: Bombardment

Europe's mainland saw the majority of the fighting during World War I, with British soldiers joining others from around the world in the bloody battlefields of Belgium and France. Early in the war, however, hundreds were killed when the German Navy bombarded towns on the east coast of England. The town of Hartlepool, in the north-east of England, took the worst hit. The attacks sparked a wave of anger in Britain and convinced many to support the war effort, scared that further attacks would occur.

The attack

Just after 8.00am on the morning of 16th December 1914, the coastal shipbuilding town of Hartlepool suffered the first major attack on British soil in World War I. Over the course of forty minutes, more than 1,100 shells rained down on the town, destroying buildings and injuring or killing hundreds. It is thought to have been a target partly due to its accessible location and partly due to the importance of its shipyards and engine works to the war effort.

The attacks, which included the use of battle cruisers Seydlitz and Moltke, and the armoured cruiser Blucher, began as people prepared to head to work or school. Survivors of the attack recall chaos on the streets as people attempted to gather their loved ones and flee. Those already at work raced home to find their families before trying to escape to the local countryside and villages.



The Hartlepool Headland, an area of the town on ground that reaches out into the sea, was among the most badly damaged areas during the attack. The area was home to the Heugh Battery guns, which fired back at the German ships – but the much larger weaponry of the warships outgunned them. Some of the worst damage in Hartlepool occurred on the nearby streets of Moor Terrace, Victoria Place and Cliff Terrace. Most houses in the area suffered some form of damage, and shrapnel from the attack can still be seen lodged in the walls of some buildings. The Heugh Battery itself is now a volunteer-led military museum.

Despite the majority of shells falling in the Headland area, several streets in the west side of Hartlepool were also hit. In the days following the attacks, many residents feared more of them, and stayed further inland.

Hartlepool's victims

In total, more than 130 people were killed in Hartlepool that day. Among the dead was Theophilus Jones, a private in the 18th Battalion of Durham Light Infantry. Private Jones was a young school headteacher in Leicestershire but, when war broke out, he returned to Hartlepool to serve his country.

He was hit directly by a shell – and so is believed to have been the first soldier to be killed on British soil during the war. A number of other soldiers also lost their lives, although less directly, alongside him. Reports say that a shard of the shell that hit Private Jones's chest was found lodged in a prayer book given to him by pupils. Hundreds attended his funeral, and school children in Hartlepool are still taught about his – and his fellow troops' – bravery.

Hundreds of other victims are also remembered from the tragic day.



The effect of the attack

The attacks on Hartlepool – and, later, across England – had a significant and growing impact on the public's opinions of the war. The views of many people quickly changed, as they feared further and more severe attacks from the Germans.

Their fears were well founded. In 1915 and 1916, German airships called Zeppelins attacked mainland Britain. In 1917, the first true air raid took place, by huge Gotha bomber aircraft. Streetlights were dimmed in response, and huge searchlights across the country swept the sky instead.

The devastating attacks on home soil also helped to shape a publicity campaign of 'propaganda': information promoting a political cause or point of view. The British government used the attacks to encourage men to enlist in the military. It produced posters asking: 'Men of Britain! Will you stand this?'

The attacks created a surge in the number of people joining up to support the war effort, especially in Hartlepool. While some signed up for military roles, many more began working in the town's shipyards and munitions factories. The town's people played an important role in the nearly four years of war that followed.

World War I ended at 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – 11 November – in 1918. Germany signed an armistice agreement – ensuring peace and no further fighting.

Task: *Use the text to replace the missing words in these sentences.*

Over the course of forty minutes, more than 1,100 _____ rained down on the town, destroying buildings and injuring or killing hundreds.

The British government used the attacks to encourage men to _____ in the military.

Early in the war, however, hundreds were killed when the German Navy _____ towns on the east coast of England.

Germany signed an _____ agreement – ensuring peace and no further fighting.

The attacks _____ a wave of anger in Britain and convinced many to support the war effort, scared that further attacks would _____.

Most houses in the area suffered some form of damage, and _____ from the attack can still be seen lodged in the walls of some buildings.



Plenary:

Use the words defined at the beginning of this lesson in your own sentences. You can keep the sentences based on World War I, or you can change the context of the sentences. Share these with a partner.

Challenge:

See if you can use these words in conversation over the week or if you can find them in any news reports that are written over the week.



Reflection:

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