

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 3

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

I can answer retrieval questions based on one paragraph.

I can also retrieve concepts that draw on more than one paragraph.

I can even describe how authors are selective with language to convey ideas and explain views.



Vocabulary recap:

What do these words mean?

bombarded

sparked

occur

shell

shrapnel

enlist

armistice

Tasks 1 & 2: *reading to show fluency, expression and meaning*

Read the text first in your head to help your reading fluency. *(The text is on the following three pages and saved as a separate document.)*

Read the text a second time out loud to yourself or a partner. In this read, use your voice (and the punctuation cues) to show the meaning of the text in the way that you read it aloud.



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 3: *retrieval questions – write your answers in your book*

Match the information in these boxes...

(Answers can be found at the end of the presentation.)

German cruiser

bloody battlefields

bombarded town

propaganda poster

Hartlepool

Belgium and France

Moltke

'Men of Britain'



Task 3: *continued*

Match the information in these boxes...

prayer book

Heugh Battery military museum

attack began as

1,100 shells rained down

shard of a shell

16th December 1914

led by volunteers

people headed to work and school



Task 3: *continued*

Label the information with the correct number, date or year...

Street attacked by German ships	
---------------------------------	--

Battle cruiser used by Germans	
--------------------------------	--

Armoured German cruiser	
-------------------------	--

Amount of time German cruisers fired for	
--	--

Day and month WW1 ended	
-------------------------	--



Task 3: *continued*

Is this information TRUE or FALSE?

The attack happened as children prepared to head to school.

No one was killed in the early morning attack.

Shrapnel from the attack can still be seen in the walls of some buildings.

The Heugh Gun Battery fired back at the Moltke.

Theophilus Jones was a headteacher from a school in Leicestershire.

World War I ended at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

Task 3: *continued*

Which is the correct answer to this question?

When did the bombardment of Hartlepool begin?

16th December 1914

17th December 1914

6th December 1914

26th December 1914



Task 3: *continued*

Which is the correct answer to this question?

Hartlepool was targeted because of its...?

pleasant seaside

important shipyards

naval base

farmland



Task 3: *continued*

Which is the correct answer to this question?

Which battalion in the Durham Light Infantry did Theophilus Jones serve in?

17th Battalion

5th Battalion

6th Battalion

18th Battalion



Plenary:

Authors select language that suits the style of their writing. What is the style of this writing? What impact does that have on the language choices in the text?

Choose two words from the text that show the tone the author wishes to convey in this text. Explain and reason about your choices.

Has the writer written with a viewpoint in this text? Which words will help support your answer to this?



Reflection:

Lesson 3

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

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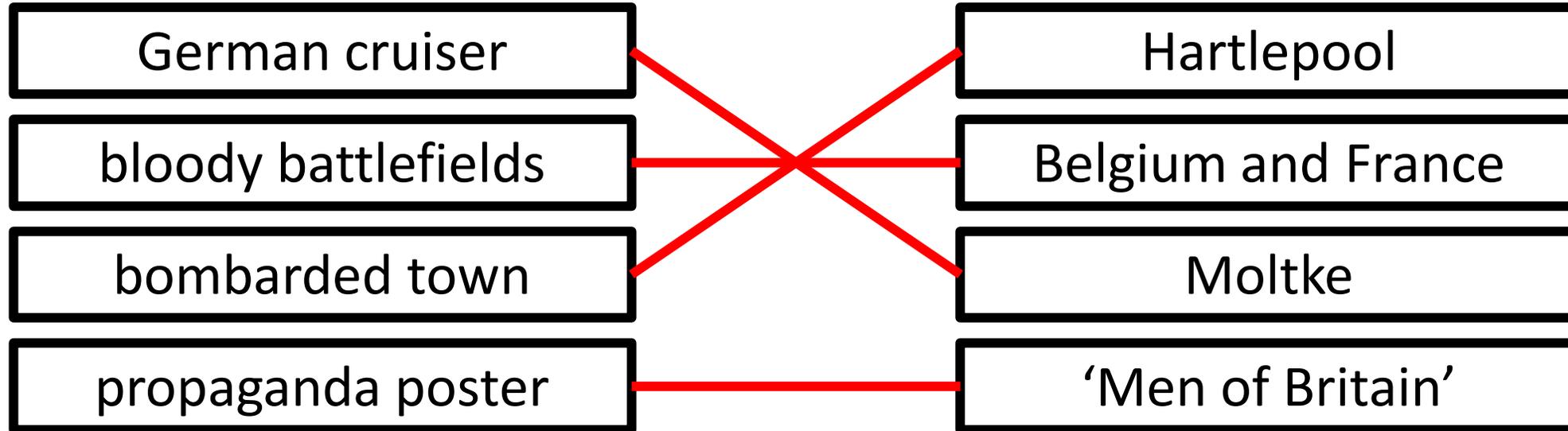
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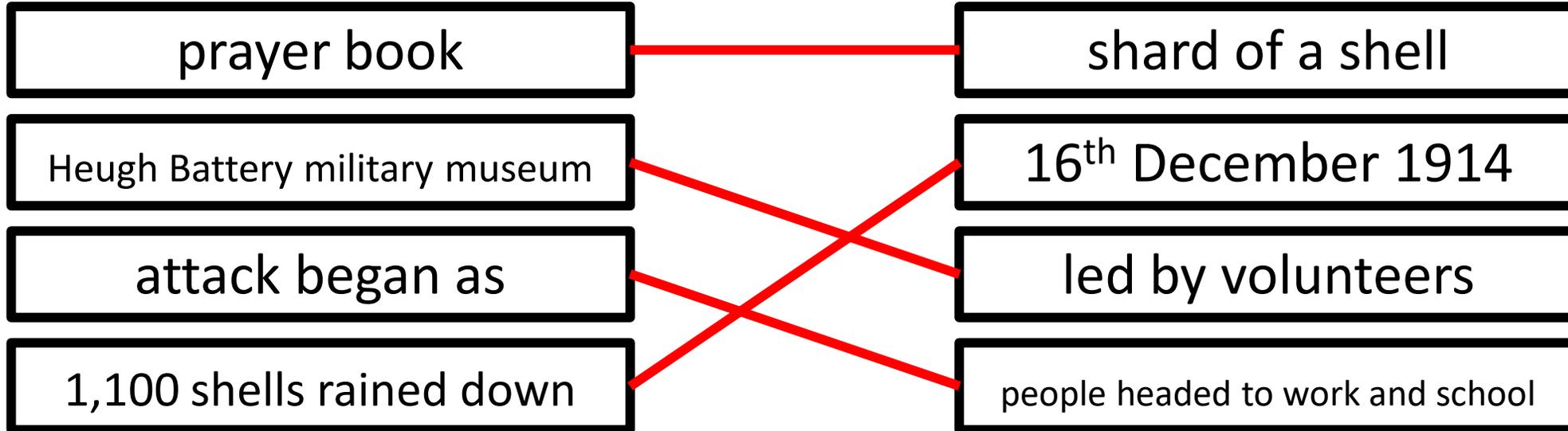
Answers:

Match the information in these boxes...



Answers:

Match the information in these boxes...



Answers:

Label the information with the correct number, date or year...

Street attacked by German ships

Moor Terrace/Cliff Terrace/Victoria Place

Battle cruiser used by Germans

Seydlitz / Moltke

Armoured German cruiser

Heugh

Amount of time German cruisers fired for

Forty minutes

Day, month and year WW1 ended

11th November 1918



Answers:

Is this information TRUE or FALSE?

The attack happened as children prepared to head to school.	T
No one was killed in the early morning attack.	F
Shrapnel from the attack can still be seen in the walls of some buildings.	T
The Heugh Gun Battery fired back at the Moltke.	F
Theophilus Jones was a headteacher from a school in Leicestershire.	T
World War I ended at 11am on the 11 th day of the 11 th month.	T



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Answers:

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