



7. Teenage Tommies

<p>The 'Big Picture':</p> <p>To develop their knowledge, understanding and empathy for the men who fought in the trenches; particularly 'men' near to the students age.</p>	<p>How will students be successful in their outcomes?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All will be able to recall the story of at least on 'Teenage Tommy'. 2. Most will understand the hardships that they endured and why they endured them. 3. Some will be able to evaluate the choices of these young men against the choices that they have to make today.
<p>Skills:</p> <p>Information-processing Analysis Creative thinking Empathy Use of ICT</p>	<p>Literacy:</p> <p>Enlist Conscript Convalesce Desertion Execution</p>

SECTION

ACTIVITY

RESOURCES

Connect:

Have some pictures of child soldiers on the board as the students enter. Ask students to come up with three reasons that this practice is wrong (e.g. too emotionally immature, no education, robbed of their childhood, etc.)

<http://www.child-soldiers.org/>

Take some feedback and then move on to picture of Teenage Tommies and link to previous work on the horror of the trenches.

<http://www.warchild.org.uk/issues/child-soldiers?gclid=CJT0io-irMICFRHhtAodIxoAFQ>

Activate:

Explain the official policy concerning recruitment:

Officially you had to be 19, a minimum of 5'3" with a chest at least 34".

- Many boys well below 19 fitted these requirements. Recruiting sergeants were paid £6 per recruit meaning they were happy to bend the rules.
- There were also far less birth certificates to prove ages!
- Many young men suffered the same fate as the

- pacifists (see lesson 5) and were pressured into joining.
- When the war was not 'over by Christmas', parents began to complain about their sons being in battle.
- The army went and found them, many refused to leave their regiments others were put into camps until they were old enough to re-join their units.

Demonstrate: Share the accounts with students in pairs or groups. Using the F@cebook template and the personal information students should create a profile page, a number of posts, photo uploads, etc. as one of the 'teenage tommies'.

Teenage Tommie Stories

Teenage Tommy Sheets were made with information from:

F@cebook template sheet (TESconnect)

- <http://www.express.co.uk/news/history/532742/Teenage-Tommies-World-War-One>
- <http://www.pals.org.uk/battersby.htm>
- http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/boy_soldiers.htm
- <http://archive.iwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.2213>
- <http://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/remembering-teenage-soldiers-great-war.html>

Access to an ICT suite is ideal however profiles/pictures can be printed off.

There are specific links to Hear My Cry on the Bible Society pages. Links to pictures and information can be found below:

- <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/world-war-1/stories/soldiers/hunger-drove-this-boy-to-war/>
- <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/world-war-1/stories/soldiers/the-15yearold-who-ran-away-to-sea/>
- <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/world-war-1/stories/soldiers/the-bible-that-saved-a-life/>

Consolidate: Read 'The parable of the old man and the young' from 'Hear My Cry' (Page 90). Ask students to reflect on the idea that the youth of a generation was sacrificed by the pride and decision-making of an older one. Link this idea to the teenage tommies who fought and died.

'Hear My Cry'

Resources for use with *Hear My Cry*, published by Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG. [biblesociety.org.uk/ww1](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/ww1)