

Scottish Victoria Cross research challenge

Teacher's notes

The big question

How do conflicts affect communities?

Level

Fourth/Senior

Experiences and outcomes

I can assess the impact for those involved in a specific instance of the expansion of power and influence in the past. **SOC 4-06d**

I can independently select ideas and relevant information for different purposes, organise essential information or ideas and any supporting detail in a logical order, and use suitable vocabulary to communicate effectively with my audience. **LIT 4-06a**

I can convey information and describe events, explain processes or concepts, providing substantiating evidence, and synthesise ideas or opinions in different ways. **LIT 4-28a**

When I engage with others I can make a relevant contribution, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute and encourage them to take account of others' points of view or alternative solutions. I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, exploring and expanding on contributions to reflect on, clarify or adapt thinking. **LIT 4-02a**

I can communicate in a clear, expressive manner when engaging with others within and beyond my place of learning, and can independently select and organise appropriate resources as required. **LIT 4-10a**

I can use ICT effectively in different learning contexts across the curriculum to access, select and present relevant information in a range of tasks. **TCH 4-03b**

Additional resources

Scottish Victoria Cross winners research challenge.

Poppyscotland's documentary films and archive footage are available from the education website or from the Sowing the Poppy seed DVD.

Poppyscotland's image library is available from the education website:

www.poppyscotland.org.uk/education

Introduction

This challenge avoids teaching by exposition and encourages students to learn for themselves and then present their findings in an interesting and informative way. The challenge ties in nicely with the Higher History Unit 'Impact of the Great War, 1914 – 1918' where pupils have to look at the contribution made by Scots on the Western Front. Equally, it could be used at Fourth Level by students studying the First World War or generally as part of remembrance activities with students looking at the history of Scots in conflicts.

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Your challenge

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military decoration which can be awarded for valour in the face of the enemy to members of the British armed forces and those of various other Commonwealth countries.

It can be won by any member of the armed services and is usually presented to the winner in person by the monarch. At the time of writing, it has only been awarded 1,358 times and only three men have ever won it twice.

As part of the Higher History unit 'The Impact of the Great War, 1914-1918' you are required to study the contribution made by Scots to the fighting on the Western Front.

Your challenge is to study in more detail the impact made by certain individuals who went 'above and beyond' what was expected of them in their duties as members of the armed forces. Research and prepare a short presentation to your class on five Scottish recipients of the Victoria Cross during the First World War.

- Work in groups of four or five.
- Produce a presentation that should last no longer than 10 minutes.
- Allocate jobs (researchers, writers, readers).

Think about:

- Do you want to prepare a PowerPoint show to help with the presentation?
- What information is it important to include?
- A basic number of points should be covered including the recipient's name, regiment, when and where they won the award, why they were awarded the medal (i.e. what they did) and what were the consequences of their actions (i.e. what effect did their actions have on the ground – did they die? Were they wounded? Did they save someone? Did their actions alter the outcome of a military engagement?)

Make use of the following resources:

- The school library.
- History books.

The internet is probably your most useful tool for this challenge. Wikipedia has an excellent list of Scottish VC winners. Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org> and type in 'List of Scottish Victoria Cross recipients'.

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Research planning sheet

Step 1

Using the internet find a list of Scots that have received the Victoria Cross. For starters, you might like to look up Robert McBeath, Alistair McEwan, John Ripley.

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Step 2

Why did they receive the cross, what did they do? Take notes.

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Step 3

Choose 5 examples of people that have received the Victoria Cross. Create a presentation about these 5 people. Explain why they were awarded the Victoria Cross.

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What progress have I made today?

SAL

2nd level

I can make and organises notes using my own words and headings to develop my own thinking and create new texts.

For example...

3rd level

I can make and organise notes using my own words and use these to develop my own thinking, explore other issues and create new texts.

For example...

4th level

I can make and organises notes using my own words and uses these to develop thinking, synthesise ideas and create new texts.

For example...

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Peer marking exercise / self-assessment

Tick all that apply.

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- I can convey information and describe events, explain processes or concepts, providing substantiating evidence, and synthesise ideas or opinions in different ways. **LIT 4-28a**
- When I talk with others I can make a relevant contribution, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute and encourage them to take account of others' points of view or alternative solutions. I can respond, exploring and expanding on contributions to reflect on, clarify or adapt thinking. **LIT 4-02a**
- I can communicate in a clear, expressive manner when engaging with others within and beyond my place of learning, and can independently select and organise appropriate resources as required. **LIT 4-10a**
- I can use ICT effectively in different learning to access, select and present relevant information. **TCH 4-03b**