

Learning Resources for Teachers:

Learning Resource: **John Barnes**

Key Question and learning objectives	Recommended Teaching Strategies	Specific resources	Core outcomes / products made by the students
<p>Why did Sarah Barnes have to campaign to get her son's name engraved on the Littlehampton war memorial?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To speculate and offer hypotheses To make inferences To cross reference source material To substantiate answers 	<p>This enquiry takes a mystery approach. It focuses on the tragic tale of a young soldier, John Barnes who was court-martialled and executed for desertion, despite suffering a mental breakdown. Can your pupils piece together the evidence to work out why John's mother, Sarah campaigned to have her son's name added to the Littlehampton war memorial in 1921?</p> <p>We recommend that your pupils work in pairs during this enquiry.</p> <p>Start by showing the class clue 1, the photograph of Littlehampton war memorial. Explain to them that nearly every town and village across the country has a war memorial to honour the men from the area who fought and died in different conflicts. Many of these memorials were erected after the Great War. The Littlehampton memorial was unveiled at 3pm on 28th September 1921. Sarah Barnes, a 55 year old mother was in the crowd. She was there to pay respect to her son John Barnes, whose name she knew would be on the memorial. However, Sarah had had to campaign in order to have her son's name put on the memorial.</p> <p>The big question we are going to tackle is: Why did Sarah Barnes have to campaign to get her son's name engraved on the Littlehampton war memorial?</p> <p>At this point ask the pupils to speculate and come up with their first theory / their first answer to the big question: Why did Sarah Barnes have to campaign to get her son's name engraved on the Littlehampton war</p>	<p>Clue 1: photograph of Littlehampton war memorial</p> <p>Clue 2: Brooch with a photograph of John Barnes in it</p> <p>Clue 3: John Barnes' birth certificate</p> <p>Clue 4: A post card sent by John Barnes</p> <p>Clue 5: Charge sheet</p> <p>Clue 6: Transcript from the trial of John Barnes</p> <p>Clue 7: Verdict paper from John</p>	

	<p>memorial? It doesn't matter if they get to wrong. You just want them to hypothesize. You could introduce a line of certainty at this point. Ask them for their theories and then get them to stand on the line of certainty</p> <p>Certain.....Uncertain</p> <p>Also ask them to use the correct language to show how sure they are that their first answer is correct. Display words such as: <i>Definitely, Probably, Possibly, Perhaps, Maybe</i> and get them to use this tentative language.</p> <p>Clearly they will need some more clues to help answer the big question. At this point dish out clues 2, 3 and 4. Clue 2 is the brooch with a photograph of John Barnes which Sarah wore for the rest of her life (this proves he was in the army), clue 3 is John's birth certificate (this proves he was old enough to fight), clue 4 is a post card John sent to his landlady in Chichester (this proves he went to the Western Front).</p> <p>When pairs have looked at the new evidence, ask them to have a second attempt at answering the big question: Why did Sarah Barnes have to campaign to get her son's name engraved on the Littlehampton war memorial? Repeat the line of certainty activity.</p> <p>There still isn't enough evidence to work out why John's name was missing from the memorial so it is now time to give the class some more telling evidence. Give out clues 5, 6, 7 and 8. Clue 5 is the charge sheet accusing John Barnes of desertion. Clue 6 is a transcript from John's court martial trial – it is his account of what happened. Clue 7 is the verdict paper from the trial with Haig's signature on it. Clue 8 is John's Medal Roll Index card. All of this evidence shows that John Barnes was tried and executed for desertion.</p> <p>Let your pupils analyse the documents, give them enough time. Then ask them for a third time to answer the big question. At this point they should be able to tell you that John's name was missing from the Littlehampton</p>	<p>Barnes trial</p> <p>Clue 8: Medal Rolls for John Barnes</p> <p>Clue 9: Battles John Barnes was involved in</p> <p>Clue 10: John Barnes' previous 'offences'</p> <p>Clue 11: Recent article</p> <p>Clue 12: Eye witness from the Battle of Loos</p>	<p>Optional short speculative answer to the big question</p> <p>Optional short speculative answer to the big question</p>
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	<p>memorial because he deserted. If you have to, explain to them that being AWOL was a serious crime that was punishable by death during World War One.</p> <p>At this point ask them if Sarah Barnes was right to campaign to her sons name put on the Littlehampton war memorial? After all, John broke the law! Listen to their answers and then give out the next set of clues. Clue 9 shows some of the battles John was involved in, clue 10 is form AE B122, used at John Barnes' trial – this shows John's previous 'offences'. Ensure that your students read this to see that John had form and had disobeyed orders before – ask them why he was in hospital in July 1916?</p> <p>We need to know a little more about John's experience to help see whether Sarah Barnes was justified in her campaign. Show clue 11, the recent article which confirms John was suffering from shellshock and clue 12 in which an eye witness describes what The Battle of Loos was like. You could also show them the short film about eye-witnesses from the Battle of the Somme. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_UsrRzasJU&feature=youtu.be These help to explain why John deserted. He was suffering from PTSD (shellshock) and wasn't fully recovered when he went back to France.</p> <p>You could show them the final clue - the photograph of the Littlehampton war memorial with John's name now on!</p> <p>They should now be able to answer the question: Why did Sarah Barnes have to campaign to get her son's name engraved on the Littlehampton war memorial?</p> <p>Note on differentiation: This is just one way to present the evidence. For your brightest pupils you could pose the big question and then just give them all of clues and get them to work it out for themselves.</p>	<p>Clue 13 The new plaque</p>	<p>Extended answer to the big question</p>
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