



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
Why did Sarah Barnes have to campaign to get her son's name engraved on the Littlehampton war memorial? • To speculate and offer hypotheses • To make inferences • To cross reference source material • To substantiat e answers	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? We recommend that your pupils work in pairs during this enquiry. 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 28 th 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.	Clue 1: photograph of Littlehampton war memorial Clue 2: Brooch with a photograph of John Barnes in it Clue 3: John Barnes' birth certificate Clue 4: A post card sent by John Barnes Clue 5: Charge sheet Clue 6: Transcript from the trial of John Barnes Clue 7: Verdict paper from John	

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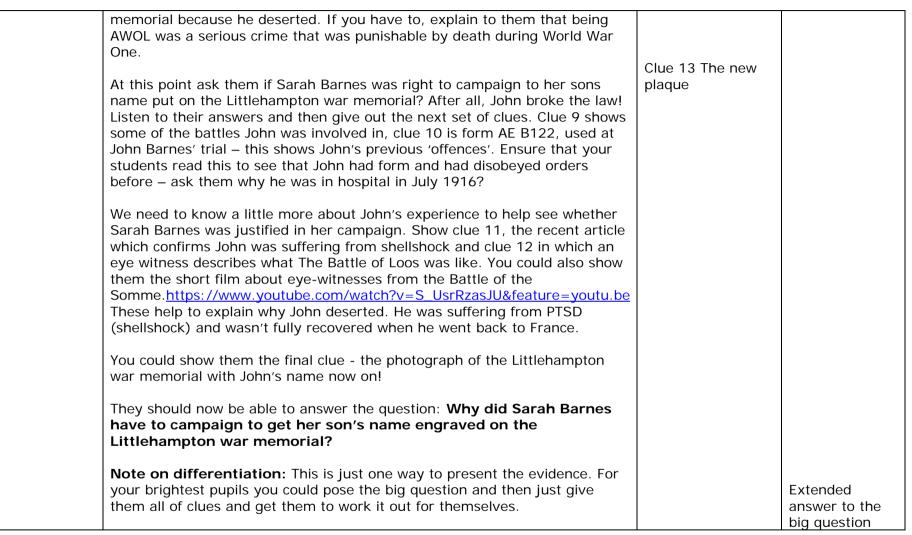


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memorial? It doesn't matter if they get to wrong. You just want them to	Barnes trial	
hypothesize. You could introduce a line of certainty at this point. Ask them		
for their theories and then get them to stand on the line of certainty	Clue 8: Medal Rolls	
	for John Barnes	
CertainUncertain		
	Clue 9: Battles	Optional short
Also ask them to use the correct language to show how sure they are that	John Barnes was	speculative
their first answer is correct. Display words such as:	involved in	answer to the
Definitely, Probably, Possibly, Perhaps, Maybe		big question
and get them to use this tentative language.		5 1
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).		
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.		
	Clue 10: John	
There still isn't enough evidence to work out why John's name was missing	Barnes' previous	
from the memorial so it is now time to give the class some more telling	'offences'	
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	Clue 11: Recent	
- it is his account of what happened. Clue 7 is the verdict paper from the	article	
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.	Clue 12: Eye	Optional short
	witness from the	speculative
Let your pupils analyse the documents, give them enough time. Then ask	Battle of Loos	answer to the
them for a third time to answer the big question. At this point they should		big question
be able to tell you that John's name was missing from the Littlehampton		big question
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