



## For Those in Peril on the Sea: Investigating the First World War at Sea

During the spring term of 2016, teacher Nick Longford and the Year 5 children from Waterville Primary School, North Shields, investigated the First World War at Sea and the Battle of Jutland. Supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, they researched those killed in the conflict and buried in Preston Cemetery, Tynemouth. They were fascinated to find that their local area had been in the front line of naval warfare.



Year 5 by the First World War memorial and graves

The graves of 58 naval personnel are recorded and cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Preston Cemetery. Although many were local men who died aboard Tyne trawlers requisitioned by the Royal Navy, the graves of others show the breadth and ferocity of the fighting. Several came from dreadnought battleships, the most powerful killing machines of the day, and yet others from submarines, cruisers and even an early aircraft carrier.

These lesson plans and activities were written to support the children in their work. We hope pupils and teachers in other schools will find them informative and challenging.





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## 01 Britain Prepared

An overview of the importance of the Royal Navy through the exploration of a British propaganda postcard.

## 02 Researching First World War Headstones in Tynemouth Cemetery

A blank record sheet for CWGC naval gravestones, together with a headstone image to practice completing the form before a site visit.

## 03 Finding Ernest Head

A research case study from Tynemouth cemetery using a contemporary newspaper report and the CWGC website.

## 04 A Muse at Sea

Writing poetry inspired by the naval poems of Edward Hilton Young, published in *Muse at Sea*, 1919.

## 05 North Shields in the First World War

Using a contemporary Ordnance Survey map to identify key local features and too prepare a report by a German spy for a coastal attack or Zeppelin raid.

## 06 Reading the 1911 Census Upper Penman Street

Studying the 1911 census for a nearby street to investigate aspects of Edwardian family life and social conditions in the locality.

## 07 Signalling at Sea

Poor signalling was a significant problem for the Royal Navy at Jutland. This fun activity tells the children how to send messages with signal flags and semaphore.

## 08 Who won the Battle of Jutland?

The first reports of the battle seemed to indicate a British defeat at Jutland. Could this be true? And for a more ambitious activity, follow the instructions to restage Jutland in the school hall.

## 09 Jack Cornwell VC

In 1916 almost every school in Britain collected for the Jack Cornwell fund for disabled sailors. Find out more about this boy VC and the vigorous British propaganda campaign that exploited his bravery.

## 10 Zeppelins Over the Tyne

Investigate the shock of enemy airships in the sky and make your own *Zeppelins over the Tyne* postcards.

## 11 Gott Strafe England

Analyse an image from this famous German propaganda campaign and create a vengeful Norse god stamp.

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