



Title: The Kaiser & the War

Curriculum Links and Skills:

History 5a: identify, evaluate and use sources of information critically

Unit 18: Hot war, cold war why did the major twentieth-century conflicts affect so many people?

Citizenship 2b: justify orally and in writing a personal opinion about a moral issue

English: Y7 Word level 15. use dictionary and thesaurus

Y8 Text Level Reading 5 & 6 trace the development of themes; recognise bias...

ICT QCA Unit 3 – Processing text and images

Learning Objectives:

- **Develop confident use of IT across the curriculum**
- **Consider the significance of propaganda and popular opinion in wartime**
- **Investigate the role of information media in the past (song and postcard)**

Suggested activities:

What the teacher will do:

1. Have hard copies of the song *The Kaiser and the War* prepared or introduce the Farne Site and allow the pupils to conduct an Archive search.

2. This song is a fine example of popular British attitudes towards the war. Kaiser Wilhelm, 'Kaiser Bill' symbolised German militarism. Highlight or list and discuss the many charges laid against him by Armstrong e.g. war crimes with submarines and zeppelins. Use Activity Sheet 1 to reinforce comprehension of the song.

3. Discuss and define propaganda e.g. a political message; persuasion; misleading; opinion. Cf modern advertising.

What the pupils will do:

1. Search the Farne sight to find the song *The Kaiser & the War*. Try a simple key word search using the term World War One or browse the Archive by theme *war/armed forces* Print out the song

2. Use Activity Sheet 1 to list Armstrong's views of the Kaiser. Armstrong made his living by writing and selling popular songs. How might this influence what he wrote?

3. In pairs use a dictionary or thesaurus to prepare a list of words to explain the meaning of propaganda. How is propaganda different from ordinary advertising?



FARNE

Folk Archive Resource North East



4. Look at the two postcard images of the Kaiser and discuss the message and the humour.

Soak him one for me – soaking the Xmas pud in alcohol

Give him beans - punish or defeat.

5. Compare the techniques used by Armstrong and the postcards to denounce the Kaiser and Germany. Armstrong only uses a little humour. What other methods does he employ e.g. shock-horror, exaggeration, praise of British pluck.

4. In pairs discuss:

What is the message of the Kaiser Bill postcards?

How has the cartoonist got over the message?

5. Use Activity Sheet 2 to investigate the different ways used by Armstrong to attack the Kaiser.

How might songs like *The Kaiser and the War* affect public opinion about the war?

Resources:

Book computer suite or download song

Access to Word or similar

Access to internet: use of search engines and linked sites