

This five lesson enquiry was completed by all Year 9 pupils at Longsands and Ernulf Academies in St Neots in 2017. It followed on from several weeks of conventional coverage of the First World War and its subsequent peace settlements. The depth study therefore built on prior learning and moved out from a local to a global focus (and back again).

Lesson One - What led Harry Driver to Russia in 1919?



The lesson gradually reveals and analyses evidence of the service of a local soldier, Captain Harry Driver who is buried in Archangel Cemetery and listed on the St Neots War Memorial. Beginning with the hook of a local story, the lesson examines the push and pull factors that led him to volunteer for service in the North Russia Relief Force, including the controversial role of War Secretary Winston Churchill who was intent on crushing Bolshevism.

Lesson Two - Why did the Allies intervene in Russia?



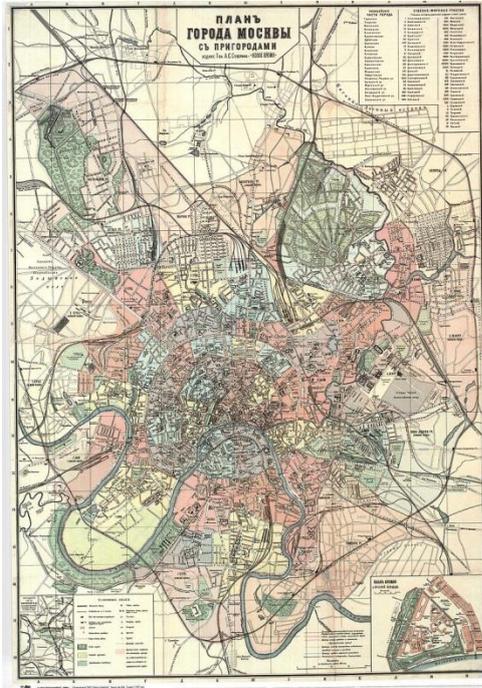
The lesson casts pupils as decision makers, representative of four Allied powers (Great Britain, France, the USA and Japan). As the First World War ended and the Russian Civil War opened, pupils are introduced to the shifting motivations of the different powers and drip fed information about landmark events which influenced Allied intervention. Tensions within the British cabinet between Prime Minister David Lloyd George and War Secretary Winston Churchill are also exposed.

Lesson Three - How did the Bolsheviks use propaganda to turn Allied soldiers against their leaders?



In this lesson pupils analyse rarely studied Bolshevik propaganda aimed at encouraging mutiny among British soldiers supporting the Whites and identify different themes exploited by the Reds. The lesson concludes with a letter from Churchill to Lenin, the Russian Bolshevik leader denouncing his cause.

Lesson Four - How close to success did the Allies come?



Pupils follow the complex ebbs and flows of both sides in the Russian Civil War between 1918 and 1921, weighing up how close to success the Allied intervention came. They also consider why the Bolsheviks (the Reds) won and the Whites lost.

Lesson Five - How should British soldiers who served in the Allied intervention be remembered?

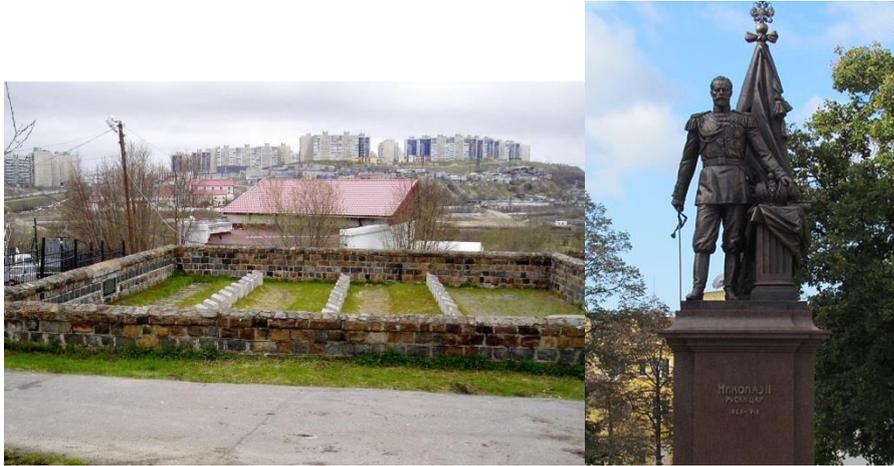


Photo credit; CWGC

Pupils consider criteria for a "successful" war memorial, contrasting British memorials on the Western Front, war cemeteries in Russia and recent First World War memorials erected by the present Russian government. In doing so pupils explore possible reasons why so much effort has been taken to highlight the British war dead of the Western Front, so little effort to remember those who died during the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War and why the present Russian government of Vladimir Putin might wish to cast Russian involvement in the First World War in a positive light one hundred years on. All this feeds into the culmination of the enquiry, designing a montage commemorating the service of British soldiers. In this way the concluding lesson of the enquiry returns from a global to a local theme.