Profile of a Somme Soldier

Teachers: if you watch some of the coverage of the centenary commemorations of the Battle of the Somme on the BBC today, it could help with this exercise. It runs from 9.15 a.m. to 12.15 a.m. on BBC1, on radio and at www.bbc.co.uk. They will have a special page up on the website with details all their coverage.

Today is the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Somme was one of the most dreadful and bloody battles in any war at any time. Tens of thousands of men lost their lives on both sides. Men from all over the world. It is likely that a soldier from your town, school or family took part in the battle.

We’d like you to do a profile of a soldier who fought at the Battle of the Somme. You might want to look out for soldiers from other countries, as it involved many more nationalities than just the British, French and Germans. With your teacher’s help, search online for a soldier. If you visit www.cwgc.org or Google you may find who you are looking for. You could also look in your local newspaper this week – online or on paper. Or you may already know of someone.

Find out what you can to put in a profile about that soldier. Try and vary what you look for by seeking the answers to questions about the soldier that begin with who, what, when, where, why and how. If you can find a photograph of your soldier, then illustrate your profile with that. You could try to draw a picture of how you think he looks. You will be able to find plenty of images on Google too.

Now lay it out so it looks attractive to a reader. You could put the profiles up as a display for other children and parents to see. You could even write a story about your soldier.