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Social Studies 10

***Over the Top: An interactive look at WWI Trenches***

1. Define the following terms:

Western front: the area of military operations during the First World War which ran from Belgium, through northern France, and to the Swiss border.

Duck-boards: floor sections made of wooden slats which can be laid on wet, muddy or cold surfaces

Webbing: a type of military back-pack, made of sturdy canvas and containing numerous pouches for carrying the ammunition, water bottle, bayonet, food, clothing and personal belongings of a soldier.

Parapet: the inner wall of a trench, made of earth and wood and topped with sandbags, to protect soldiers.

Platoon: a unit of soldiers, normally consisting of 50 men.

Dugout: shelter dug on the side of a trench, in the ground, used as living quarters, for storage of supplies or for protection.

1. Describe how the simulation illustrates the trenches? What did you learn about that we have not yet discussed in class? The simulation describes a typical day in the trenches as having to stand waiting in the trenches before dawn waiting for the Germans to attack. The trenches were described as a mud-filled landscape, which consisted of unburied bodies and lice-ridden uniforms.
2. How many times did you die? What decisions kept you safe in the trenches? What decisions could put your life in jeopardy? In the simulation I died three times, by making safe decisions and staying in the same place you were helped you stay alive for longer. Sometimes you weren`t able to able to complete the task in order to not be endangered by the Germans.
3. Earlier in the unit we discussed how many soldiers saw the war as an adventure and opportunity. Was this the case in the simulation? Describe how a soldiers understanding of war may have changed. Life in the trenches was not how the soldiers imagined it to be, there was no glamorous marching towards the Germans. You found yourself stuck in the same muddy ditch every single day, with no grateful citizens, or prizes to be won.