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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 shows that it has very harsh conditions: rats, mud, and very little sleep. It also shows the tough decisions you must quickly make. I learned that there were people who dig tunnels in the war. I also learned that even if you were given orders, go with your gut.

1. How many times did you die? What decisions kept you safe in the trenches? What decisions could put your life in jeopardy?

I died once when I was cutting the barb wire because of two grenades landing right beside me. The decisions that were less reckless were safer and the ones taking a risk would put your life in jeopardy.

1. 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 soldier understanding of war may have changed.

In the simulation the soldiers did not know how the war would be like. They joined because of friends, money and the chance to travel. They didn’t take it that seriously at certain times and weren’t really that worried. When they got there they found out that you just sit in a muddy ditch with dead bodies everywhere and wearing lice ridden uniforms.