



Fairlop's 20th Century Heroes of the Air

Fairlop's Zeppelin Hero

An activity using and interpreting archival material to explore why there are different versions of events in WW1

Curriculum Areas

KS2 History

Pupils should study a site post 1066 that is significant in the locality

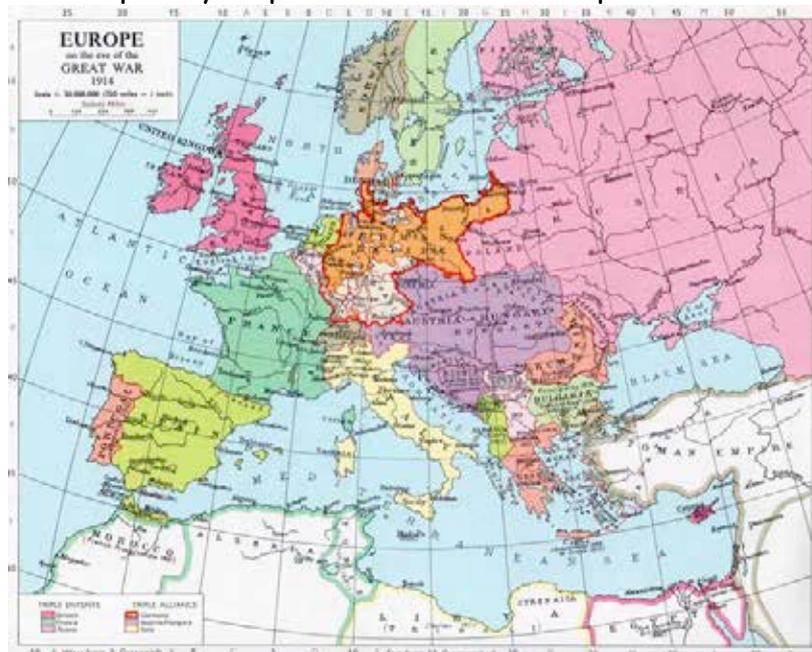
Pupils should study an aspect of the past which illustrates a significant turning point in British history

Previous Knowledge

- Some background facts, such as dates and main protagonists
- an awareness of the limitations in technology (particularly aircraft) at the time

Resources

Contemporary maps of Britain and Europe



Europe in 1914

(Courtesy George Philips & Sons)

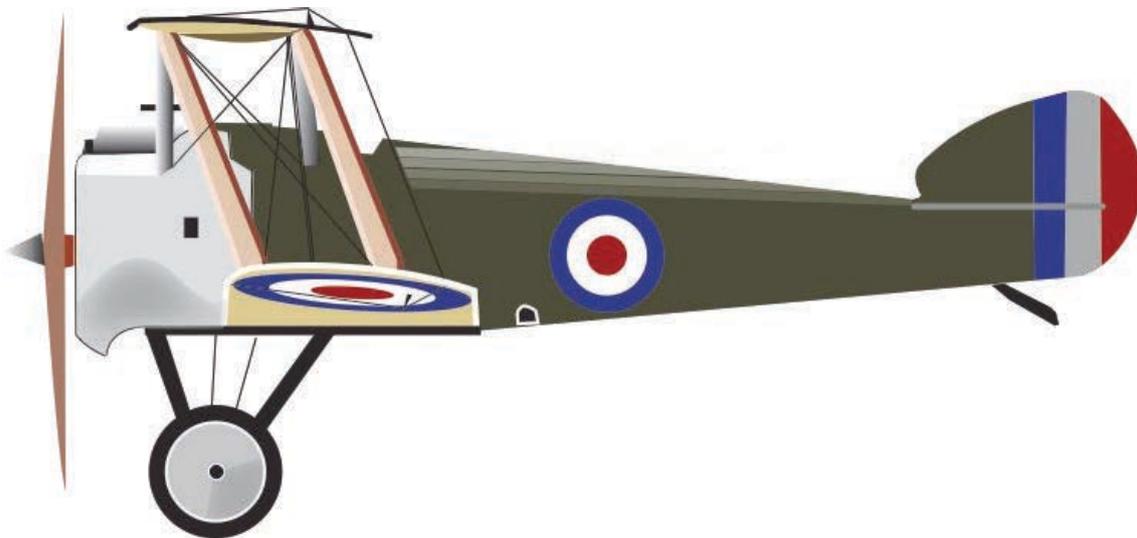


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Images of contemporary aircraft including Zeppelin and Sopwith Camel



Zeppelin L31
(Potters Bar History Society)



Sopwith Camel
(David Martin)



Fairlop's 20th Century Heroes of the Air

Photograph of Alfred de Bathe Brandon



Alfred de Bathe Brandon
(John Barfoot)

Introduction

- Discuss the reasons for war in general
- With pupils working in groups, introduce the contemporary maps of Europe and Britain
- Identify Britain, Serbia, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Germany, Belgium and France, Fairlop and Little Wigborough
- Explain that the assassination of the Austrian Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand was the catalyst which led to World War in 1914.
- Britain entered the war on August 4th 1914
- In previous decades British wars had been fought abroad. This was the first time in hundreds of years that Britain faced a major threat on home ground
- Initially, Germany's air power was superior to that of Britain



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- Introduce contemporary images of aircraft including a Zeppelin and a British Sopwith Camel aeroplane
- In groups, discuss what it would be like to fly like this?
- What are the advantages of each?
- What are the disadvantages?
- Explain Germany favoured Zeppelin airships for bombing raids over Britain because of their speed and ability to fly high in the sky
- Introduce photographs of Alfred de Bathe Brandon and Kapitanleutnant (Captain) Alois Bocker
- Describe the events of 23/24th September 1916 when Lieutenant Brandon tried to shoot down the Captain Bocker's Zeppelin

Activity

Introduce the 3 archival accounts of the event

Group work

- Pupils work in groups of 2/3 to read each account & notice what information each gives

Discuss

- Is all the information the same?
- How does it differ?
- Why does it differ?

Discuss

- Lieutenant Brandon was born in New Zealand
- Why did he come to England to fight in the war?

Follow up Activity

- Write an account of the incident either from the point of view of the German airmen or that of the farm labourer and his wife