



The Black Watch Castle & Museum

Pre-Visit Activities for Schools

The Black Watch

This lesson plan will prepare your class for their visit to the Black Watch Castle & Museum by helping them to understand who The Black Watch is and their role during the World Wars. By the end of this lesson your class will have a greater understanding of the history of the Black Watch by using primary sources for discussion, understanding the meanings of regiment, battalion & rank and involving themselves in drama activities.

If you would like to continue your museum learning after your visit our *Post-Visit Activities for schools* allow your class to create their own Black Watch Museum in the classroom.

You will need:

- Space for drama activities
- Paper & Pen/Pencil
- Smartboard to show appendix images (optional)

You will learn:

This post visit activity will give your students the opportunity to explore a range of key skills in their development linked to the Curriculum for Excellence. Along with lifelong learning skills like individual and group work, public speaking & creativity this activity has been devised to prepare students for their visit to the Black Watch Castle & Museum.

- Literacy

LIT 0-04 – 2-04, LIT 0-07 – 2-07, LIT 0-09 – 2-09

- Expressive Arts

EXA 0-14 – 2-14

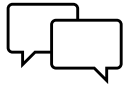
- English

ENG 0-17 – 2-17

- Social Studies

SOC 0-04 – 2-04

Introduction (5 – 10 minutes)

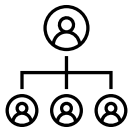


Full Class Discussion: Ask the class if they have ever been to a museum before? What museum did they go to? When did they go? Who did they go with? What did they see? What did they do? What did they learn?

Who is The Black Watch: Have a short discussion about the Black Watch Museum, what the students might expect to see and learn there. Explain that this activity is to prepare them for their trip.

The Black Watch (15 – 20 minutes)

Regiments & Battalions



The Black Watch are an Army Regiment with many battalions, within each battalion are 1000s of men. Ask your pupils to imagine all the school in Scotland, they all make up the 'army'. Now, imagine your school – that would be a 'regiment' within that army. Then, think of your class – that would be a 'battalion' within that regiment. Within each regiment there are different ranking soldiers.

Understanding Rank

Every regiment has Officers and Privates. Officers oversee other soldiers; the highest-ranking officers oversee thousands of men, while the lower ranking officers might only oversee a few dozen men. Privates are not in charge of other soldiers; they must follow the orders of their officers. This 5-minute drama activity will help pupils to understand the concept of rank.

1. Divide the class into groups of 3 pupils.
2. Have each group designate one person to be the Commanding Officer, one person to be a mid-ranking officer, and one person to be a Private.
3. For two minutes, the Commanding Officers in each group will pass their orders to the mid-ranking officer, who will pass them to the Private, who **MUST** obey. (COs might order the Privates to stack chairs or do star jumps – encourage pupils to give appropriate orders)
4. At the end of the two minutes, have the groups change the roles around and do the activity again.
5. Discuss with the pupils what it was like being the Commanding Officer, the mid-ranking officer and the Private.



Dressed like a soldier: Show the image (appendix B) either printed or on a smartboard of a Black Watch soldier, ask the group to label what he is wearing and what it might be used for. Once you have labelled everything go through the answers with the class.

Label A – Kilt

The Black Watch wore the kilt to signify that they were a Scottish regiment. This type of kilt was called the "failidh-mor" and it translates to "the great kilt" – the kilt had two layers, the second layer could be lifted over the head and used to keep warm and dry but also as a sleeping bag!

Label B – Sword

The broadsword was the weapon used by many British armed forces at the time. The Black Watch became known as 'The Highland Furies' due to the way they used their broadswords. The soldiers would wait for their enemy to fire their muskets, duck down to avoid the musket balls then charge at their enemy with the broadsword.

Label C – Flag

Every regiment had a flag. Before battle the flag would be paraded in front of the soldier to let them know what their colours were and to tell the difference between their allies and enemies. During the battle of Waterloo the flag bearer

Label D – Bagpipes

Bagpipes were used as a weapon for the Black Watch. Not to hit people over the head with but to play music. It is said that the sound of the bagpipes gave the Black Watch courage to fight the battle. This was called being "piped into battle".

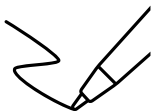
Label E – Sporan

The sporran is a type of bag that sits in front of the kilt it is used to store things that the soldier might need like food, matches or bandages. Every Scottish regiment has its own distinct sporran – The Black Watch sporran is black & white with five tassels.

At War (20 minutes)



Outbreak of War: Read the newspaper article (Perthshire Advertiser) from August 5th, 1914 (Appendix A) You can have your students read out a paragraph each. This was the declaration of war for many of the people of Perth & Kinross. Ask the group to think about how they might feel reading it now and what they think the mood would be like in Perth afterwards.



Dear Diary: Ask your students to write a diary entry as somebody in Perth finding out about the outbreak of war. Ask them to think about who they might be, how old they are, what job they might be and how they are feeling. Students can share their work with the class.

THE SITUATION IN PERTH.

RESERVISTS AND TERRITORIALS CALLED OUT.

STIRRING SCENES IN TAY STREET.

CHAOS AT POST OFFICE.

The war fever has caught on in Perth with a vengeance, and the call to arms has not found the young men of the city lacking in their patriotism.

The following notice, which was posted up last night in several of the public buildings, caused quite a flutter of excitement in military circles:-

"TERRITORIAL FORCES.

"His Majesty the King, having been graciously pleased to order by Proclamation that directions be given by the Army Council for embodying the Territorial Forces, all men belonging to the said Force are requested to report themselves immediately at their headquarters."

The notices were eagerly scanned by men, women, and children in great numbers, and the significance of the message was fully appreciated by the citizens. During the evening the streets were patrolled by large crowds, who gravely discussed the situation, and the feeling of excitement was accentuated when it was learned that the reserves had been notified to join their regiments.

Without a murmur the men nobly responded to the call, and at ten o'clock, when the special steamed out of the General Station they were given a grand send-off, which recalled to mind the memorable scenes which were witnessed on the departure of troops for the South African frontier.

Many touching and affectionate farewells were witnessed. The reservists were a cheery company, and the gleam of war was in their eye.

The immediate result of the departure of the reserves has been to cripple local industry to a considerable extent.

In this connection the Post Office staff has been particularly badly hit. As is well known, the great bulk of the men employed at the "P. O." are ex-soldiers, and the effect of their waygoing to serve their King and country has been to deplete the staff to an alarming extent.

Taken by surprise, the Post Office officials have so far not recovered from the shock, and the men left have had a great deal of extra work thrown upon their shoulders. No delivery was made last night in several parts of the city, and the postmen were very late in putting in an appearance this morning.

An urgent notice for auxiliary postmen was issued from the Labour Exchange in King Edward Street this morning, and the authorities hope that the system will shortly assume its usual business-like methods.

Several large employers of labour have also been affected by the exodus of reservists; indeed there is scarcely an industry in the city which has escaped the loss of two or three of their servants.

Last night animated scenes were witnessed at the Drill Hall in Tay Street, the headquarters of the 6th Battalion Black Watch Territorials and the Army Service Corps. Almost to a man a report was given in, the list, including those of the staff of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Ltd., who had gallantly responded to the call of their chief, Mr F. Norrie-Miller, for recruits. The men were served with their rifles and kit bags, and great excitement prevailed.

The order to mobilise at nine o'clock was obeyed to the minute by the great bulk of the Army Service Corps units this morning. As early as eight o'clock there were signs of activity and bustle in Tay Street, and as nine o'clock drew near the thoroughfare presented an animated spectacle. Mr F. Norrie-Miller motored a number of the men to their headquarters, and his appearance was the signal for a slight demonstration.

At 9.30 a shrill bugle call rang out, and the men at once reported themselves in the hall. Having been formed up, Sergeant-Major Pankhurst called the roll, and there was a gratifying response.

A representative of the "Perthshire Advertiser" was informed by Captain Gray, who is in command, that the full strength of the Corps stands at 206, which number has been increased by ten.

There was a grand muster of the men, who made a brave show.

Appendix - A The war fever has caught on in Perth with a vengeance and the call to arms has not found the young men of the city lacking in their patriotism. The following notice, which was posted up last night in several of the public buildings, caused quite a flutter of excitement in the military circles:-

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Appendix - B

