



What's going on this week?

Armies in the UK and all over the world have played a key part in supporting governments and helping in many ways throughout the pandemic and it's likely that their role will continue in 2021. In early autumn, the military helped to organise mass testing in Liverpool. In December, 1,100 military personnel were sent to help thousands of lorry drivers spending Christmas Day stranded at Dover. Most recently, the Army have been helping secondary schools and colleges in England to set up mass coronavirus testing for their pupils.

Main question:

How do soldiers help us in times of need?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what we can see. Explain that it shows soldiers who were helping to test drivers stuck in Dover over the Christmas period. Discuss what we know about people who work in the Army and what we already know about the work they do.
- Explain that over the past year, soldiers in the armed forces have been working very hard to support others during the pandemic. They have helped with testing, building emergency hospitals and more. Did you know the Army did such varied tasks?
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf), which shows soldiers from the British Army helping test lorry drivers over the Christmas period. Talk about what impact you think the soldiers had on the situation? How do you think the lorry drivers felt when they were able to return to their families?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which shows some of the ways that the armed forces help us. Do you know any other ways in which the armed forces help us in our daily lives?

Reflection

The armed forces are not just responsible for protecting their citizens, they also support international peacekeeping efforts and provide humanitarian aid in many different ways.



KS1 Focus

Question:

What is a soldier?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'soldier'. Do you know what a soldier does? Do you know anyone who is a soldier?
- Explain that a soldier is a person who serves in the Army. People can join the Army and begin training to be a soldier from the age of 16.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some more information about what a soldier is. Have you seen soldiers working before? What were they doing?
- Focus on the uniform they are wearing. Can you describe what it looks like? Explain that this is their combat uniform and it is camouflaged. Being camouflaged means to be hidden or disguised.
- Soldiers must look after their uniform and equipment well. They have to be very smart. Do you like to keep your clothes neat and tidy and your shoes shiny?
- Explain that there are many different jobs or roles within the Army, but a soldier's first job is to protect the nation. Do you think it is important that we have soldiers to help protect us?

Reflection

A soldier is someone who serves in the Army. They wear a uniform and have many different jobs, including protecting our nation.



KS2 Focus

Question:

What does a typical day for a soldier look like?

Listen, think, share

- Explain that a soldier is a person who serves in the Army. Do you know anything about being a soldier or being in the Army? Do you know anyone who is a soldier? What do you think their job entails?
- Look at resource 2, which gives more details about being a soldier. Do you think you would enjoy being a soldier? Why?
- There are many different roles and jobs a soldier can do in the Army that fall into different areas. Share the different areas found on resource 2. Do you know what they all are? Can you find out? Which do you think would be your favourite area?
- A typical day for a soldier involves working on their base, using their trade skill or developing new ones and fitness. Why do you think it is important that soldiers take part in daily fitness sessions?
- The first role of the Army is to protect the nation and they are always ready to serve. The Army is also involved in preventing conflicts, dealing with disasters and fighting the nation's enemies. How important do you think it is that we have an Army?

Reflection

A soldier's day can be very different depending on their role in the Army and whether they are on an operation or not. Every soldier plays a part in protecting our nation.



KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to create a list of questions they might ask a soldier to find out more about their role and their life. Explain they are going to plan and write a letter to a soldier. This could be someone they know or you could find the nearest base to send the letters. Think about:

- Why are you writing? To thank them for their work? To find out more about their role?
- Share some information you know about how soldiers have been helping recently.
- Ask any questions you have or share what you would like to know.
- Conclude by sharing your thoughts on their role.

Send off the letters. You may get a response!

Option 2: Explain that being a soldier requires a certain level of fitness. They have to pass a fitness test before they can join the Army. Ask the children to create their own fitness session. Think about:

- What equipment will you need?
- How much space do you need and where will you carry out the session?
- Who will take part in the session?
- How long will it last?
- Can you make the activities harder or easier if needed?

If possible, take part in some of the sessions. As an extension, measure out 2km and time the children to run it. 11 minutes and 30 seconds or less is the time needed to pass the Army fitness test!



KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children if they have ever seen soldiers in a parade. Often, they are in very smart lines and rows. If possible, stand the class in twos and march around the playground (or if children are at home, they could do this with toys). Change it to threes, fours etc and repeat. Once back in class, model and explore arrays on the board e.g.

- 10 soldiers, marching in twos
- 14 soldiers marching in twos
- 20 soldiers marching in fives
- How many rows and columns are there?

You could ask the children to organise their own parade using counters or multilink to represent the soldiers.

- How many rows? How many columns? How many soldiers altogether? Can you write a number sentence?

Option 2: Ask the children to look at what the soldiers in this week's poster are wearing. Explain that it is a uniform.

- Can you think of any other people who wear uniforms?
- Why do you think we wear uniforms?

Explain that soldiers wear different uniforms depending which unit they are in or what job they are doing. Some of the uniforms they wear are designed to camouflage them.

- What does camouflage mean?
- Can you think of any animals that are camouflaged?

Ask the children to design a uniform for a soldier to wear.



This Week's Useful Websites

[This week's news story](#)

www.forces.net/news/coronavirus-how-military-helping

This Week's Useful Videos

[Military helping in Dover](#)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyOXo7Na0mk

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Humanitarian – concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.

Mass – a large number.

Military – relating to the armed forces of the country.

Responsible – having an obligation to do something as part of your job or duty.

Stranded – left without the means to move from somewhere.

Varied – consisting of a number of different types or elements.