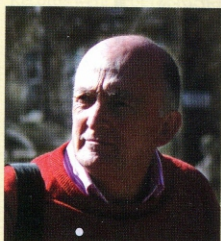


Visible learning: Planning my enquiry



You've seen a picture of my grandfather on page 105. Now this is me! I'm the person who's writing this book and planning this investigation. The key word is PLAN! I know a little. I want to know a lot – but just starting to read could leave me with a jumble of information that feels confusing and with no clear conclusions. Fortunately I have been studying history for many years so I know how to work my way through a new topic. This page shows you my plan for my enquiry.

I know a little about my grandfather and I have some questions. How do I plan my way from knowing a little and having lots of questions to finding the answers and knowing a lot more?

Stage 1 What do I know?

This is a summary of my main starting points:

- My grandfather fought in the First World War.
- My mother said he was gassed and had a leg amputated.
- His Service Record shows he spent time in several hospitals in France.
- The First World War was a different kind of war. Much of the fighting was in trenches.
- There was a very high casualty rate in some of the fighting.
- Medicine was changing rapidly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Surgery was revolutionised by the use of anaesthetic and antiseptics, but blood loss was still a major problem.

Stage 2 What do I want to find out?

I need a set of questions as targets when I do my research so I know when I've completed my enquiry:

- What kind of conditions did my grandfather fight in?
- What kinds of treatment would he have received for his wounds?
- Who would have treated him?
- Were his wounds (and any illnesses) typical of those suffered by soldiers?
- Did the war change and improve medicine in any way? For example, did they solve the problem of blood loss? But I must be flexible and add to my questions if I find unexpected information.

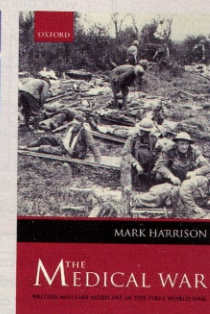
Letting you into a secret

I have been writing history books as part of my job for the last 30 years. You might think I must know everything there is to know about history but that's not true. The 'secret' is that there are quite a few historical topics I don't know much about at all because I have never had to study or write about them. I taught the First World War many years ago but I have forgotten a lot of the detail so I'm not pretending in this enquiry that I do not know much at the start. I genuinely don't know much about the detail of the war and need to find out a lot more in order to understand what my grandfather's experiences might have been.

Stage 3 Where will I research and find the answers?

There are two kinds of sources I can use.

1. Books, articles and websites written by experts on the war and on the History of Medicine



2. Sources from the war – photographs, accounts written by doctors, nurses or soldiers



Stage 4 How will I do this research?

I need to:

- Have my questions in mind so I always read with a purpose – to answer those questions.
- Keep careful notes, using my own Knowledge Organisers, so that I don't end up with a heap of disorganised information.
- Make sure the books I read and websites I use are really by experts. This means checking who wrote them and how they know what they're telling me.
- Ask questions about the sources I use. For example, is a photograph typical of conditions in the war, was the author present at the events he or she was describing, which are the most useful sources for each question?
- Remember that I may not be able to find exact and complete answers to all my questions so I need to use words such as 'probably', 'in all likelihood' and 'possibly'.
- There may be questions I can't answer at all! And I need to keep thinking! I might find unexpected information which prompts new questions or suggests I look in other books or records. I can't predict exactly what I'll find at the beginning of an enquiry. And I'm allowed to change my mind about my answer to a question as I find out more.

Visible learning

Tackling new topics with confidence

I use this plan to help me explore any historical topic that is new to me. Starting to investigate a new topic can feel worrying, like starting completely from scratch, because dates, names and events are different BUT it's important to remember that HOW we study every topic is very similar. We use this same plan whether we're exploring Roman history or the First World War. We have shown you this approach very visibly so you feel more confident whenever you start to tackle a new topic. Look back to page 32 for more detail on how to carry out an enquiry.