



# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: English - SPaG - Year 4 Block 5

## Historical Context

### Background of the Christmas Truce

- **Date:** December 24–25, 1914
- **Location:** Western Front (between British and German troops)
- **Significance:** A temporary ceasefire during a brutal war where enemies exchanged greetings, sang carols, and shared food.

### Key Facts

- Soldiers came together in no man's land, marking a moment of peace amidst the chaos.
- Activities included singing, playing football, and sharing gifts.
- Demonstration of humanity and the desire for peace, even in war.

## Writing Narrative: Key Components

### Emotions and Events

- Reflect on the feelings of soldiers: fear, hope, camaraderie, and joy.
- Describe the war's harsh realities contrasting with the warmth of Christmas spirit.

### Literary Techniques to Use

- **Adjectives:** Describe scenes and characters vividly.
  - Example: "The cold, crisp air filled with the sweet scent of roasted chestnuts..."
- **Dialogue:** Create conversations between soldiers to bring your narrative to life.
  - Example: "Merry Christmas, my friend!" shouted a joyful German soldier."
- **Fronted Adverbials:** Start sentences with adverbs to set the scene.
  - Example: "Suddenly, under the pale moonlight, a football rolled into view."
- **Relative Clauses:** Provide additional information about a noun.
  - Example: "The soldiers, who were weary from battle, gathered together."
- **Pathetic Fallacy:** Use the weather to reflect the emotions of characters.
  - Example: "The snow fell softly, as if the world itself was at peace."
- **Metaphors:** Create comparisons to add depth to descriptions.
  - Example: "The trench was a dark river, swallowing their hopes."
- **Onomatopoeia:** Use sound words to engage readers.
  - Example: "The cannon boomed in the distance, a reminder of their grim reality."



### Topic Overview

The Christmas Truce of 1914 was a remarkable event during World War I where soldiers on the Western Front laid down their arms and celebrated Christmas together. This knowledge organiser will help Year 4 students understand the significance of this event through narrative writing while incorporating various literary techniques.

## Planning Your Narrative

### Structure

#### 1. Introduction

- Set the scene: Describe the environment (the cold, muddy trenches).
- Introduce characters: Who are your main soldiers? What are their backgrounds?

#### 2. Conflict

- Present the ongoing tension of war: Describe the sounds of gunfire.
- Introduce emotional stakes: What are the soldiers feeling?

#### 3. Climax

- The moment of the truce: How do the soldiers react to the idea of peace?
- Describe the first interactions: What do they say? What do they share?

#### 4. Resolution

- Moments of joy: Highlight the festivities (singing, games).
- Reflect on the transformation: How do soldiers feel afterwards?

#### 5. Conclusion

- What happens after the truce? Resuming the fight?
- Reflective thoughts: How does this event impact the soldiers' views on war?

## Historical Evidence Integration

### Research and Sources

- **Books:** Read age-appropriate historical texts on WWI and the Christmas Truce.
- **Photographs:** Look for images of soldiers during this time to inspire descriptions.
- **Eyewitness Accounts:** Explore letters or diary entries from soldiers who experienced the truce.

### Using Evidence in Writing

- Incorporate real historical details into your narrative to enrich your story.
  - Example: Mention that soldiers exchanged food like chocolate and biscuits.