Westminster Abbey
Learning

Remembrance lesson activities – Lower KS2

Thank you for downloading this resource. We hope that it will be a useful teaching tool in your classroom.

As we continue to grow our free catalogue of teaching resources, we'd really appreciate a few minutes of your time to let us know what you liked and what could be improved. Please complete this five-question survey.

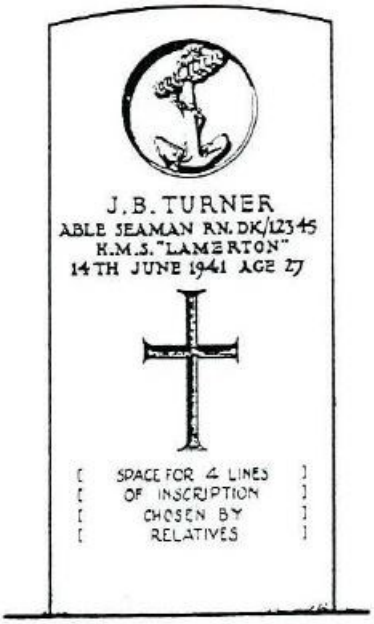
Epitaph to the Unknown Warrior

After the First World War many men who had died in battle were buried under new headstones which all had the same simple design.

There was space for 4 lines written by families to remember their loved one.

These messages are often called epitaphs. The words tell us what was so special about this person and what they still mean to families and friends.

The epitaphs on the First World War graves are written in many different languages because men from all over the world fought for Britain.



A standard Commission headstone with rounded top. ©CWGC

Task

To write an epitaph for the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

Instructions for working in pairs

Read through the real First World War epitaphs about named soldiers and the writing on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

Create your own Word Bank by circling some words or phrases that you like then writing them in the boxes below.

On your own, imagine what kind of person the Unknown Warrior was. Perhaps he was like the soldiers in the epitaphs you've read. Think about how to describe him. Use your Word Bank to help you. Start 'You…'

Tell your partner about your soldier.

Imagine how his family felt about him and think about how we in Britain today feel about soldiers like him. Talk about these feelings with your partner. Start 'We…'

© 2020 Dean and Chapter of Westminster

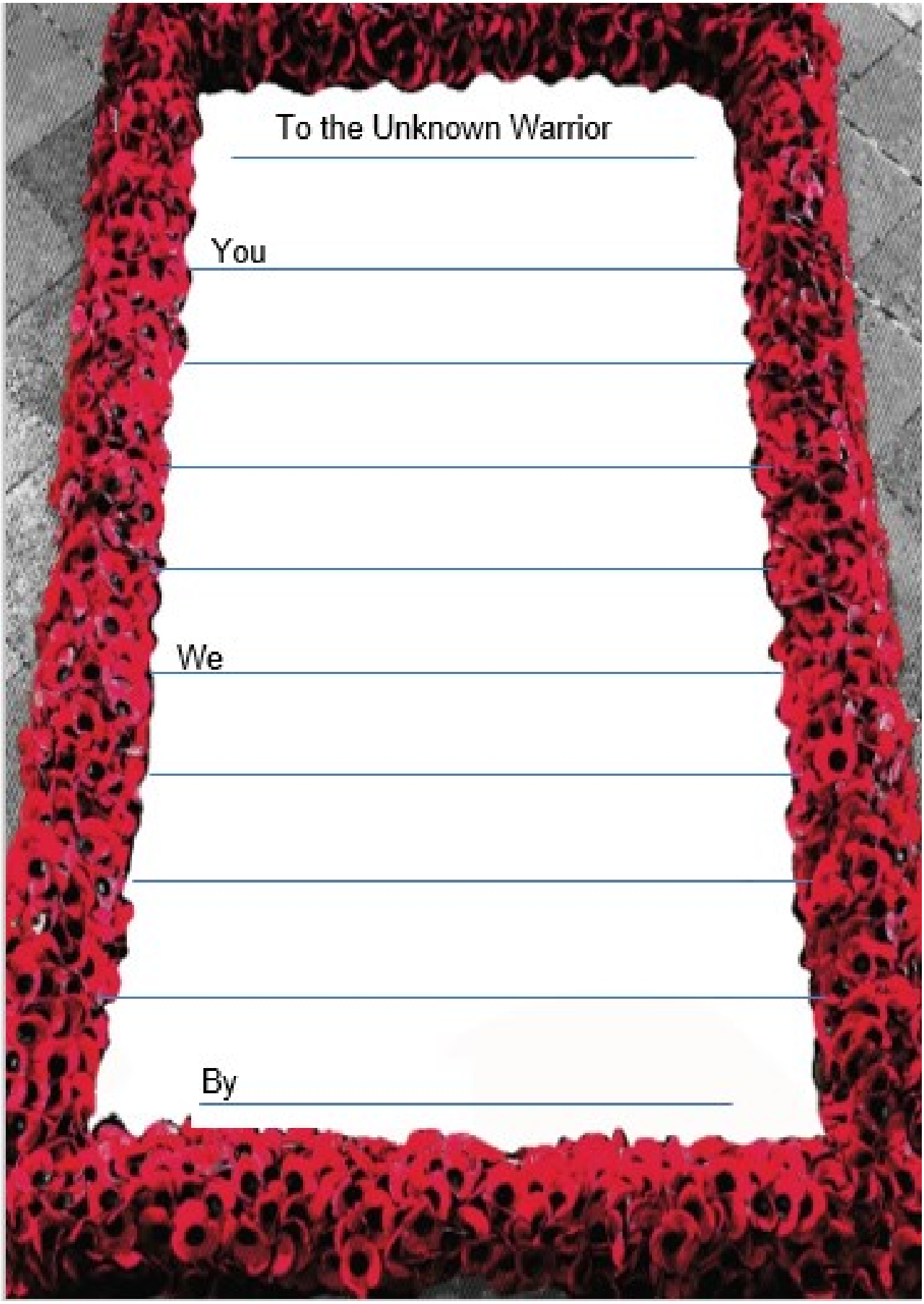
Write your epitaph *To the Unknown Warrior* on the Grave writing frame.

FIRST WORLD WAR EPITAPHS	
A BRAVE MAN AND A GOOD SOLDIER Private Albert Victor Bates	FAITHFUL , TRUE AND BOLD Private William John Larkin
HE CAME & WENT & NEVER CEASED TO SMILE Sergeant Arthur Skene	THOUGH COMPARATIVELY LITTLE I DID MY BEST Private William Arthur James Lee
ONE OF ENGLAND'S UNKNOWN HEROES Lance Bombardier Albert William Bates	DUTY CALLED HIM HE WAS THERE TO DO HIS BIT AND TAKE HIS SHARE Corporal George James Harwood
HE LOVED TO DO A KIND ACTION Second Lieutenant Harley Bentham	DAD'S BEST PAL Rifleman Michael Henry Ride
WE LIE DEAD IN MANY LANDS SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE HERE IN PEACE Private George Smart	GONE AND THE LIGHT OF ALL OUR LIFE GONE WITH HIM Sergeant Harry Woodnoth
FOR GOD FOR KING AND COUNTRY FOR LOVED ONES HOME AND EMPIRE FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD THEY BURIED HIM AMONG THE KINGS BECAUSE HE HAD DONE GOOD TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD HIS HOUSE The Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey	

MY WORD BANK		

Used with permission from www.epitaphsofthegreatwar.com

© 2020 Dean and Chapter of Westminster



© 2020 Dean and Chapter of Westminster