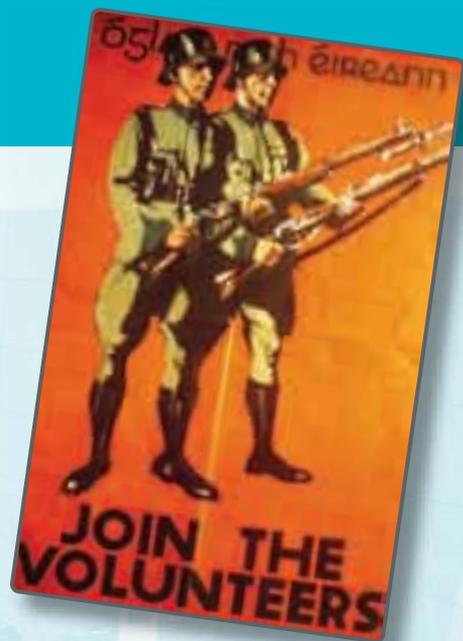


Activity Book for Schools 8

Why Soldiers Enlist

For hundreds of years, young Irish people *not much older than you* have made the decision to enlist in an army. You may make a similar decision yourself in a few years, or you may feel that this choice would not suit you. Why would a person decide to enlist in the army when there was a real risk of being killed or wounded? You will get a chance to find out by doing the activities in this book.



My Name:

Some of the reasons for enlisting (joining the army) were the same from one historical period to another. But in each period, there may also have been specific reasons that encouraged young men to enlist. There are no right or wrong answers for most of the questions in the activities – your task is to **imagine** yourself as these soldiers from the past and to **think about** how they felt and behaved.

'Introduction'

1 Stand in the introduction area for the exhibition and find the soldier from the Irish Army in 1940.

Either read along as this soldier speaks or read what he says on this page.

'The way I look at it is this, Ireland has a duty to protect itself. It's like de Valera says: all of us have to play our part during the Emergency. Believe me, I'm no born soldier – just ask the wife, or the lads back in the office! But I'm here, aren't I? In the barracks, training with the others. Learning how to shoot, and all.

I'm doing my bit for Ireland, keeping her out of that bloody war. That Hitler, he's a nasty piece of work. And I don't want them Nazis anywhere near me, but, there's no cause in getting mixed up in someone else's fight. Some of the other fellas in the office don't agree – a few of them have even joined up with the Brits.

But this endless training has me exhausted and the poor wife can hardly make ends meet on 18 shillings a week. What with the shortage of cigarettes, I'd call it an emergency all right!'

Why did he join the army?

- to make a career for himself
- to be with his friends as part of a big adventure
- because he thought it was the right thing to do



Enter the next room.

'The British Garrison in Ireland'

2 Stop at the big display in the middle of the room.

On the large tapestry you will find a scene with a poor man from the countryside meeting two soldiers (on the left side, below the church). Stephen Stokes made this tapestry in Dublin in the 1840s, during the 'Great Famine' in Ireland.

The young man carries his bundle on a stick: perhaps this is all that he owns. One of the soldiers offers the man a silver coin. This is the 'Queen's shilling'. If he accepts this token payment, he is accepting the offer to join the Army.

Why do you think this young man would want to enlist in the British Army?



Enter the next room.

'Warfare in Ireland'

3 Stop in front of two soldiers: the man wearing a red uniform and the boy with his hands tied.

The four soldiers in the centre of this room lived and fought battles in Ireland at different times over 200 years, from 1598 to 1798. Did all these men have the same reason for enlisting in the army? We cannot know for sure, but there are usually only a few main reasons to enlist.

Look at these two soldiers and read the labels. Then you decide which reasons might have been important for each man. **Put a tick beside three reasons he might have had for enlisting (the reasons that probably were important to him).**

Grenadier from the War of the Two Kings

- to be part of an exciting adventure
- for the regular food and pay
- to have a career in the army
- to support the cause of James, the Catholic King of Ireland
- to be a soldier with his friends
- to follow in the family tradition



Croppy Boy from the 1798 Rebellion

- to be part of an exciting adventure
- for the regular food and pay
- to have a career in the army
- to help drive the British out of Ireland
- to be a soldier with his friends
- to follow in the family tradition



Leave through the doorway, walk past the row of helmets and enter the next room.

'The Wild Geese'

4

Cross the room and stop at the wall with framed paintings.

Find out why one of the soldiers in 'The Wild Geese' joined the army.

This is a list of the six main reasons why people have joined armies. The first letter of each word spells **'ENLIST'**.

Excitement (to be part of an exciting adventure)

Nourishment (for the regular food and pay)

Life career (to have a career in the army)

Idealism (to support a cause)

Solidarity (to be a soldier with your friends)

Tradition (to follow in the family tradition)

Find the painting of a man in a red and black uniform and read the label below the picture. Tick off on the **ENLIST** stamp the most likely reason that Joseph Kornilovich O'Rourke joined the Russian Army.

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION



Enter the next room.

'Irish in the American Civil War'

5 Stop at the first display to the right of the doorway.

Look at the photographs of the soldiers on the panel called 'Irish in the Confederate Army'.



Which of these pictures do you think was taken when the soldier volunteered to enlist?

Give a reason for your answer.

Why would a soldier want to have his picture taken on enlistment?

6 Cross the room and stop at the display to the right of the next doorway.

Find the recruitment poster for the 69th Infantry. It's in the case beside the panel 'A Tradition of Service'.

Which of the usual reasons for enlisting does the poster appeal to?

Tick off the reason on the **ENLIST** stamp.

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION



Enter the next room.

'Irish in the British Service'

7

Stop at the large painting showing some soldiers walking toward you.

Look at the people in the painting. The two young men in civilian clothes are enlisting in an Irish regiment in the British Army.

Which of the two men do you think may have regrets about enlisting?

What leads you to think this? Hints: Notice the way he stands and look at his face.

Is the other man looking forward to life in the Army? What about his appearance makes you think that?

When he enlisted in the army, the sergeant (the man with a moustache and white gloves) probably felt the same as these two men. Tick off his likely reason for enlisting on the **ENLIST** stamp.

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION

8

Stay to the right and stop at the display in the corner.

Look for a deck of cards and a carved wooden boot. These are souvenirs from the West Indies. You will find them on the left side of the panel called 'Garrison Duty Overseas'.

Lawrence Lowry brought a few things home to remember his time in Jamaica in the 1830s. **Why do you think he enlisted?**

Hint: At that time, Jamaica was thought to be an exotic, faraway place.

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION

9

Turn around and stop at the panel on the end of a display.

Examine the two recruiting posters on the panel called 'Red Coats and Muzzle-loaders'.

What two things did Major Keating appeal to in recruiting for the 56th Regiment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION

Read the label to decide if it was important to the British Army if their soldiers could:

Read English

Yes

No

Speak English

Yes

No



Find the Panel called 'Khaki and Repeating Rifles'. **The chance to wear a fancy uniform might have attracted some recruits. Would you enlist because the uniform looked good?**

Yes

No



Leave this room, cross the bridge, walk past the aeroplane, and enter the next room.

'The First World War'

10 Walk toward the wall that faces you and stop at the first display on that wall.

At the 'War of the First Volunteers' find the 'Background Briefing' about the First World War and read 'Why Irish soldiers were there'. List the special reasons that Irishmen volunteered to serve in this War, reasons that were different than why they had enlisted in earlier wars.



1.

2.

3.

'1916 – The Easter Rising'

11 Cross to the opposite wall and stop at the first display.

Find the Volunteer uniform worn by Sean O'Duffy during the Rising. Why do you think Sean enlisted in the Volunteers?

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION

'The Irish Wars'

12 Walk past the green flag and around the corner. Stop at the display before the four shadow figures.

Look at the pistol in the case beside the panel 'Learning from the Enemy'. This standard British Army weapon could have belonged to a soldier who fought in the British Army during the First World War, and later joined the IRA to fight for Irish freedom during the War of Independence.



Why do you think he might have enlisted in the British Army?

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION

Why do you think he then joined the IRA?

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION



Leave this room and go down the stairs.

'Claiming the Future'

13 Turn left at the bottom of the stairs and stop at the displays along the wall.

Compare the three posters shown on the panel called 'Building the Forces'.

How do you think the posters encouraged men to enlist in the Irish Defence Forces?

Hint: two of these posters are similar in style; the third one is using a very different kind of appeal to the potential recruit.



1.

2.

Would you Enlist?

Now that you have found out why young people enlisted in the past, would you consider enlisting in the Irish Defence Forces when you are old enough?

What is the main reason why you might decide to join? Mark your **ENLIST** stamp with the reason(s) you would consider joining up.

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCITEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOURISHMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE CAREER
<input type="checkbox"/>	IDEALISM
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOLIDARITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITION

What is the main reason why you would choose not to join?

Now that you have thought about why people have joined armies, check your answers here.

- 1 1940 Irish Army soldier - joined reluctantly because he thought it was the right thing to do
- 2 For the regular food and pay – since the tapestry was made in the 1840s, when many people in Ireland were hungry in the Great Famine, he probably enlisted to escape poverty.
- 3 **Grenadier:** to have a career in the army (Life Career), or to support the cause of King James (Idealism), or for regular food and pay (Nourishment)
Croppy Boy: to be a soldier with his friends (Solidarity), or to be part of an exciting adventure (Excitement), or to drive the British out of Ireland (Idealism)
- 4 **Joseph Kornilovich O'Rourke** - Tradition
- 5 The pair of soldiers who are wearing military uniforms.
They were proud of their new status as a soldier.
They wanted their friends and relatives to have a picture if anything happened to them in the war.
- 6 Solidarity
- 7 The man looking back from where he came probably has regrets.
The man looking in the direction that he walks probably looks forward to life in the army.
The sergeant could have enlisted for a Life career.
- 8 Excitement
- 9 Keating poster appealed to Nourishment (regular pay) and Excitement (adventure).
No, early in the 19th century the British Army didn't care if their soldiers could read.
Yes, they needed them to understand enough English to follow the officers' commands.
Wearing a uniform conveyed status and may have encouraged some men to enlist.
- 10 To help small countries, such as Belgium (and Ireland)
To help Britain
To make Irish independence more likely by helping Britain in the war
- 11 Idealism
- 12 British Army – any of these reasons: Excitement, Idealism, Solidarity
IRA – to support a cause (Idealism)
- 13 **Join the Army to have a good time.**
Two posters show peaceful scenes in the countryside with happy-looking soldiers.
Enlist for the excitement, and the chance to use a weapon!
The third poster shows soldiers wearing helmets and standing in an aggressive pose against a hot-coloured background.

Activity Book for Schools 8

Why Soldiers Enlist

Want to know more?

For more information on exhibitions and education programmes, contact the Education and Outreach Department of the National Museum of Ireland.

Tel: 01 648 6453 Fax: 01 679 1025
email: bookings@museum.ie

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