

## **CMOML Holiday Workshop with Artist Pui Lee!** (suitable for ages 7yrs+ with assistance from a grown-up)

### **What is a Trench?**

On the Western Front, the war was fought by soldiers in trenches.

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived.

There were many lines of German trenches on one side and many lines of Allied trenches on the other.

In the middle was no man's land, which soldiers crossed to attack the other side.

Trenches were originally designed to protect World War I troops from machine-gun fire and artillery attack from the air .

The typical trench system in World War I consisted of a series of two, three, four, or more trench lines running parallel to each other and being at least 1 mile in depth. Each trench was dug in a type of zigzag so that no enemy, standing at one end, could fire for more than a few yards down its length.



### **\*\*\*FACT\*\*\*.**

...Did you know that trenches were very muddy, uncomfortable and the toilets often overflowed. These conditions caused some soldiers to develop medical problems such as 'trench foot'.

## Activity Instructions: Make Your Own Shoebox Trench Using Recycled Materials!

1. *TIP: Wear old clothes/apron for this activity! Put newspaper or sheeting down on your work-space too!*

You will need the following materials:

- Cardboard shoebox
- Pencil
- Sharpener & rubber
- 1 x A4 white paper
- Unwanted newspaper
- PVA glue
- Duct tape/ wide masking tape
- Scissors
- Cardboard sheets (can be from unwanted packaging)
- Wooden lolly sticks
- Wooden craft sticks/Wooden tooth picks
- Brown paint
- Black paint
- Small paintbrush for paint
- Flat paintbrush for applying glue
- Plastic container (can be from unwanted packaging) - for glue
- Plastic container (can be from unwanted packaging) - for papier mache
- Plastic container (can be from unwanted packaging) - for paint
- Water
- Coffee
- Used teabags
- Thin wire
- Pliers
- Square/Rectangular shaped tea bags
- Ruler [optional]







2. Start with your cardboard shoebox.



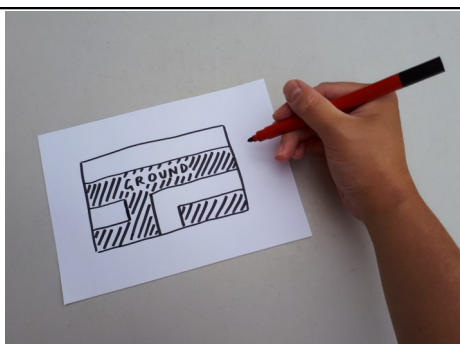
3. Draw around the base of your shoebox onto another sheet of cardboard. Then cut this new rectangle out using scissors and put to one side.



4. Carefully put duct tape onto any joint edges on the inside of the shoebox.



5. Cut down the two adjacent vertical edges of one wide wall of the shoebox to drop that wall down.



6. Draw a plan of your trench system onto paper. It can be as simple or as complicated as you like!

Make sure you are clear about where the trench walls will go and which parts will be the ground.



7. Measure and cut up some strips of card (the width being few centimetres smaller than the height of your shoebox). These will form the walls of your trench system.



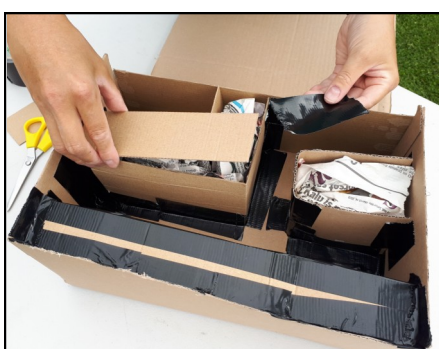
8. Start duct taping these walls into place within your shoebox.



9. ...So, now all of my trench walls are taped into place!



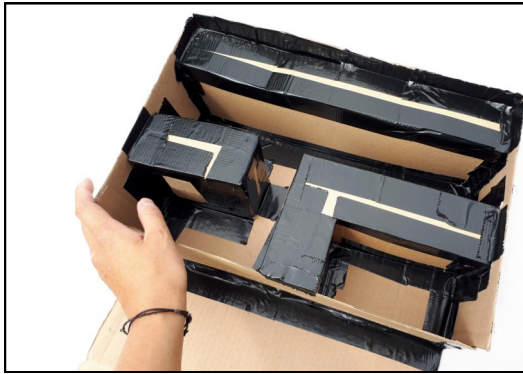
10. Then scrunch up some newspaper and use this to fill the walls of the trench.



11. Then using the cardboard sheet from Step 3, cut out pieces to go onto the tops of trench walls as shown.

Then tape into place.





12. The wall tops have now all been added!



13. Cut the ends off the wooden lolly sticks with some pliers or secateurs. You may need an adult to help with this bit!



14. Next, soak the wooden lolly sticks in coffee so that they go a brown colour.



15. Leave these to dry on some newspaper for a day. You can also soak the other wooden sticks you might have in the coffee too and leave them to dry ready for use later on.



16. Then pour some PVA glue into a container. Get ready to use a wide paintbrush.

17. Now it's time to work on the sides of the trench walls:

Turn your shoebox onto its side. Then carefully glue the lolly-sticks onto here using a paintbrush and PVA glue.



18. This will then need to be left to dry for a day.



19. Pour some PVA glue into a mixing container. Get some unwanted newspaper ready.



20. Add water to thin the glue down so that it is easier to spread.

[Ratio: 2 parts PVA to 1 part water.]

Stir mixture well with a wide paintbrush.



21. Then scrunch up pieces of newspaper, dunk into the papier mache mixture and glue to the tops of the trench walls.



TIP: You can use the paintbrush or your hands to shape the papier mache!



23. Don't forget to add papier mache to the trench floor as well. Use your paintbrush to press the newspaper down and to add texture.



24. Leave to dry overnight.





25. Next, mix an earthy brown colour and paint the inside of your shoebox, including the top of the trench walls and the ground. Then leave to dry overnight.



26. ...Now you can add any of these extra details to your shoebox trench:

~The vertical pieces of wood for your trench walls. Simply glue into place. Leave to dry overnight.



~Ladders so that the soldiers could go over the top of the trench wall: This is made using wooden sticks glued together then left to dry overnight.

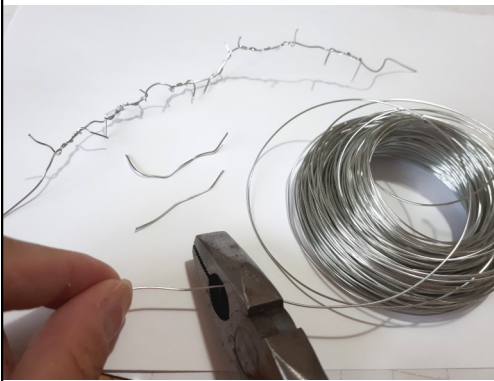




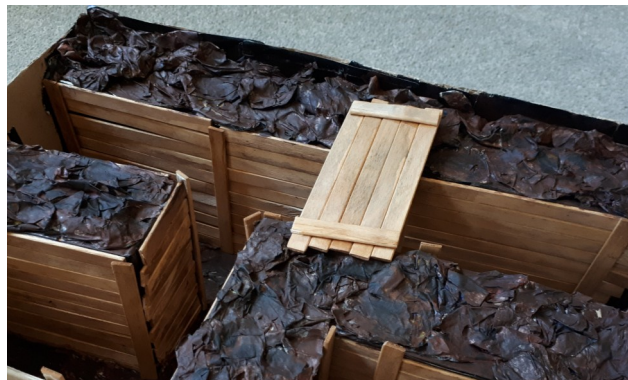
~Wooden obstacles with barbed wire: Glue the wooden sticks together. Leave to dry overnight.



Then twist small pieces of wire around a longer piece to create barbed wire to add to this.



~Trench roofing for shelter: This is made using lollypop sticks glued together, which is then placed over an opening.



~You can also use the bumpy side of a piece of corrugated cardboard for a piece of trench roofing too.





~Sandbags: paint your used-up teabags with tea/coffee/watered-down brown paint if it's not brown in colour already. Fold over each one and glue down into the desired shape. You can then put these on top of the trench walls.



27. You can use watered-down dark brown paint to randomly paint over your wooden trench walls and other wooden pieces to create a dirtied muddy effect.





28. ...Then, HOORAY, your shoebox trench is now complete! :)

