

BBC plans 2,500 hours of World War I shows

19th October, 2013



The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) has released details of its programme schedule to mark the centenary of World War I. It is planning almost 2,500 hours of new TV

and radio shows. These will be broadcast from 2014 to 2018, to mirror the one hundred years since the war. It is the biggest plan in the BBC's history. Tony Hall, the head of the BBC, said the programming would be, "a chance for us all to learn something new about a war we think we know well". A BBC spokesman said: "We are setting out to broaden people's understanding of the war, to commemorate and remember those who were caught up in it, and to tell both well-known stories from fresh perspectives and original stories so far untold."

World War I (WWI) is also known as the First World War. It was a global war that mostly took place in Europe. It began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. It was called the "World War" or the "Great War" until 1939, when World War II started. More than 9 million soldiers were killed in WWI. This makes it the fifth-deadliest conflict in human history. Over 70 million people fought in countries all over the world. The United States joined the fighting in 1917. After the war ended, many countries changed and many new nations were created. There were also revolutions in a lot of countries. There was a lot of unhappiness in some countries. This lasted for many years and was one of the causes of World War II.

Sources: BBC / BroadcastNow.co.uk / Wikipedia

Writing

We should all learn more about WWI and WWII. This will help stop future wars. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

BBC / TV programmes / WWI / one hundred years / history / commemorate / stories / global war / WWII / soldiers / conflict / new nations / revolutions / unhappiness

True / False

- The BBC will have around 2,500 hours of shows to commemorate WWI. T / F
- The shows will be on TV and radio over a 4-year period. T / F
- A BBC boss said there is nothing new we can learn about World War I. T / F
- None of the shows will tell new stories about the war. T / F
- WWI is also commonly known as the "First Global War". T / F
- WWI was not called "WWI" until WWII started. T / F
- More soldiers died in World War One than in any other war in history. T / F
- Many new countries were created after the end of WWI. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. released | a. air |
| 2. mark | b. largely |
| 3. broadcast | c. reasons |
| 4. broaden | d. remember |
| 5. perspectives | e. widen |
| 6. mostly | f. war |
| 7. lasted | g. made known |
| 8. conflict | h. misery |
| 9. unhappiness | i. viewpoints |
| 10. causes | j. continued |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about how WWI started?
- What do you think of the BBC's plans?
- Would you like to watch and listen to the BBC programmes?
- What do you think is a good way to commemorate the centenary of WWI?
- What would you like to learn about WWI?
- Is it important to commemorate past wars?
- What should your country do to commemorate WWI?
- How did WWI change the world?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. mark the centenary of | a. from 2014 to 2018 |
| 2. These will be broadcast | b. conflict in human history |
| 3. We are setting out to broaden people's | c. far untold |
| 4. well-known stories | d. of World War II |
| 5. original stories so | e. understanding of the war |
| 6. a global war that mostly | f. in a lot of countries |
| 7. the fifth-deadliest | g. fighting in 1917 |
| 8. The United States joined the | h. World War I |
| 9. There were also revolutions | i. from fresh perspectives |
| 10. one of the causes | j. took place in Europe |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you like looking at war movies?
- Do wars do any good?
- Why do we still fight wars?
- Why didn't the USA join WWI until 1917?
- What would you like to know about WWI?
- What kind of unhappiness was a cause for WWII?
- Do you think there will ever be a WWIII?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of the BBC?

Spelling

- British Broadcasting nrrCotioapo
- programme eecshlud
- rbasdcaot from 2014
- nrebado people's understanding
- rotocemmema and remember
- glioianr stories
- 9 million iroslsde were killed
- the fifth-deadliest nctfcloi in human history
- The United States joined the gifgtnih
- There were also otiselvnuro in a lot of countries
- a lot of isehuppsann
- one of the usesca of World War II

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. e	5. i
6. b	7. j	8. f	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – TV shows

You think TV shows are the best way to mark the centenary of WWI. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): school lessons, a WWI website or a global art exhibition.

Role B – School lessons

You think school lessons are the best way to mark the centenary of WWI. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): TV shows, a WWI website or a global art exhibition.

Role C – WWI website

You think a WWI website is the best way to mark the centenary of WWI. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): school lessons, TV shows or a global art exhibition.

Role D – Global art exhibition

You think a global art exhibition is the best way to mark the centenary of WWI. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): school lessons, a WWI website or TV shows.

Speaking – About WWI

Rank these.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • how it started | • the battles |
| • the weapons | • how the world changed |
| • soldiers' feelings | • city life |
| • a country's leader | • a soldier's mother's feelings |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.