

Key Points

- The First World War started in 1914
- 3 million men volunteered to fight for the British Army
- In 1916 the government decided to MAKE people fight in the war



Conscripted soldiers going to France

Fact File

When the First World War started many young men volunteered to join the British Army. They thought that the war would be short: most people said that it would be, 'over by Christmas'. Three million men joined up. By 1916 lots of these men had been killed. The government needed more soldiers. To make sure that men joined the army a law was passed. This law said that men could be forced to join the army. This is called Conscription.

Activities

Copy and complete the following

When the _____ World War broke out in 1914 many young men _____ to join the army. They thought that the war would be over by _____. Many of these young men were _____ fighting in the Trenches on the Western Front. The _____ needed to recruit more soldiers. Because people didn't want to volunteer to fight anymore, they had to pass a _____ that said people could be forced to fight in the war. Forcing people to join the army is called _____.

- 1) What year did conscription start in?
- 2) Why did people volunteer to fight at the start of the war?
- 3) What happened to many of the men who had joined up in 1914?
- 4) Why did the government have to introduce conscription?