



LEARNING OBJECTIVE: TO
WRITE A REPORT ABOUT THE
CHRISTMAS TRUCE

SUCCESS CRITERIA

I can look at a variety of sources of evidence.

I can explain what happened during the Christmas Truce and the impact it had on people.


I can empathise with soldiers during this key event.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE: TO
WRITE A REPORT ABOUT
THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

Key Words:

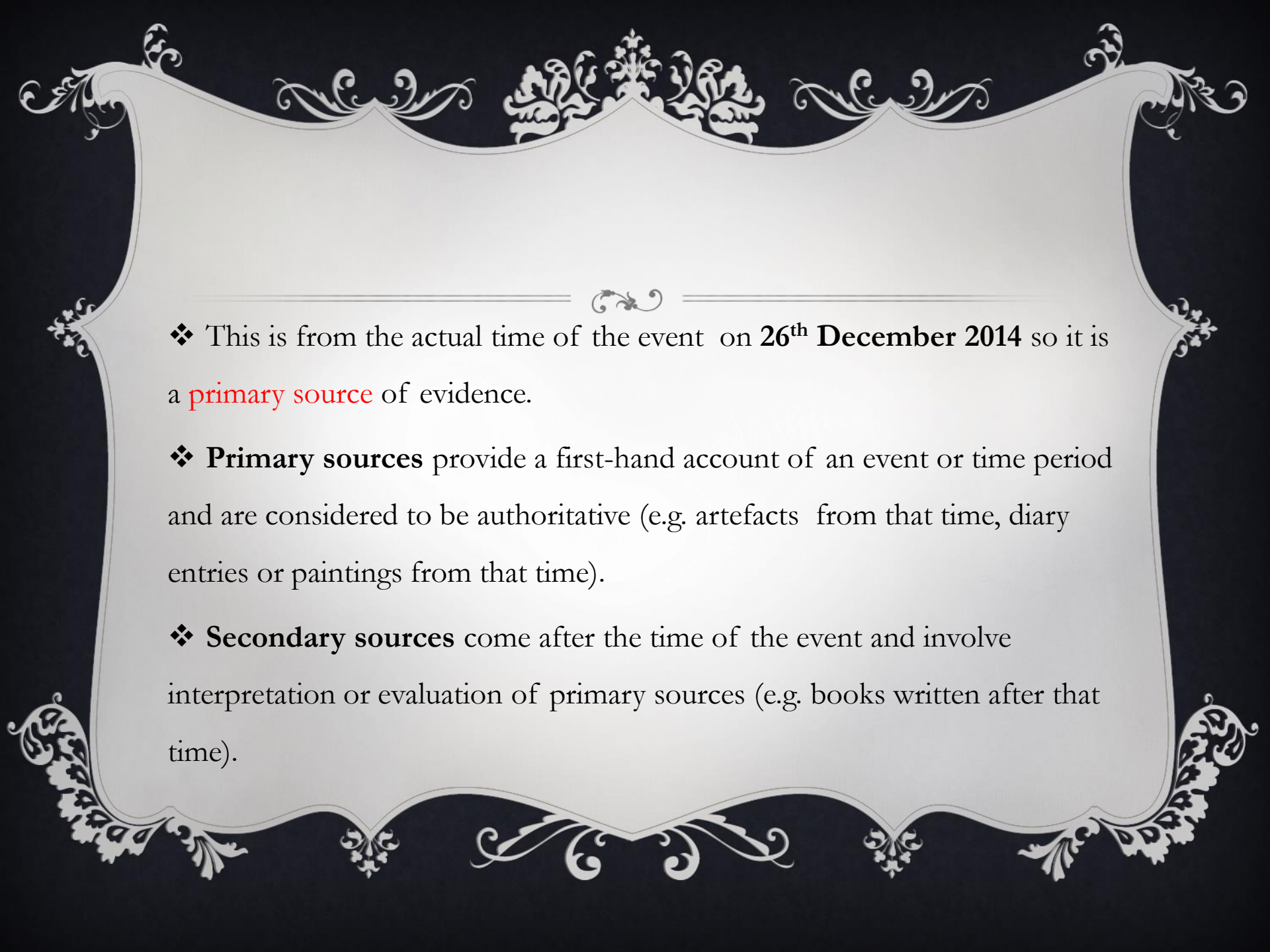
*Sources of evidence, Primary and Secondary sources, reliable, biased, subjective,
objective, trenches, allies, enemies*



READ THIS DIARY ENTRY –
IS THIS SOURCE OF EVIDENCE PRIMARY
OR SECONDARY?

Captain P. Mortimer, diary entry (26th December, 1914)

The enemy came out of their trenches yesterday (being Christmas Day) simultaneously with our fellows - who met the Germans on neutral ground between the two trenches and exchanged the compliments of the season - presents, smokes and drinks - some of our fellows going into the German lines and some of the Germans strolling into ours - the whole affair was particularly friendly and not a shot was fired in our Brigade throughout the day. The enemy apparently initiated the move by shouting across to our fellows and then popping their heads out of their trenches and finally getting out of them altogether.



❖ This is from the actual time of the event on **26th December 2014** so it is a **primary source** of evidence.

❖ **Primary sources** provide a first-hand account of an event or time period and are considered to be authoritative (e.g. artefacts from that time, diary entries or paintings from that time).

❖ **Secondary sources** come after the time of the event and involve interpretation or evaluation of primary sources (e.g. books written after that time).



DO YOU THINK THIS IS A RELIABLE
SOURCE OF EVIDENCE?
(HOW ACCURATE/TRUSTWORTHY IS IT?)

Captain P. Mortimer, diary entry (26th December, 1914)

The enemy came out of their trenches yesterday (being Christmas Day) simultaneously with our fellows - who met the Germans on neutral ground between the two trenches and exchanged the compliments of the season - presents, smokes and drinks - some of our fellows going into the German lines and some of the Germans strolling into ours - the whole affair was particularly friendly and not a shot was fired in our Brigade throughout the day. The enemy apparently initiated the move by shouting across to our fellows and then popping their heads out of their trenches and finally getting out of them altogether.



❖ If you think the source is trustworthy/believable and full of facts – we say it is **reliable** or **objective**.

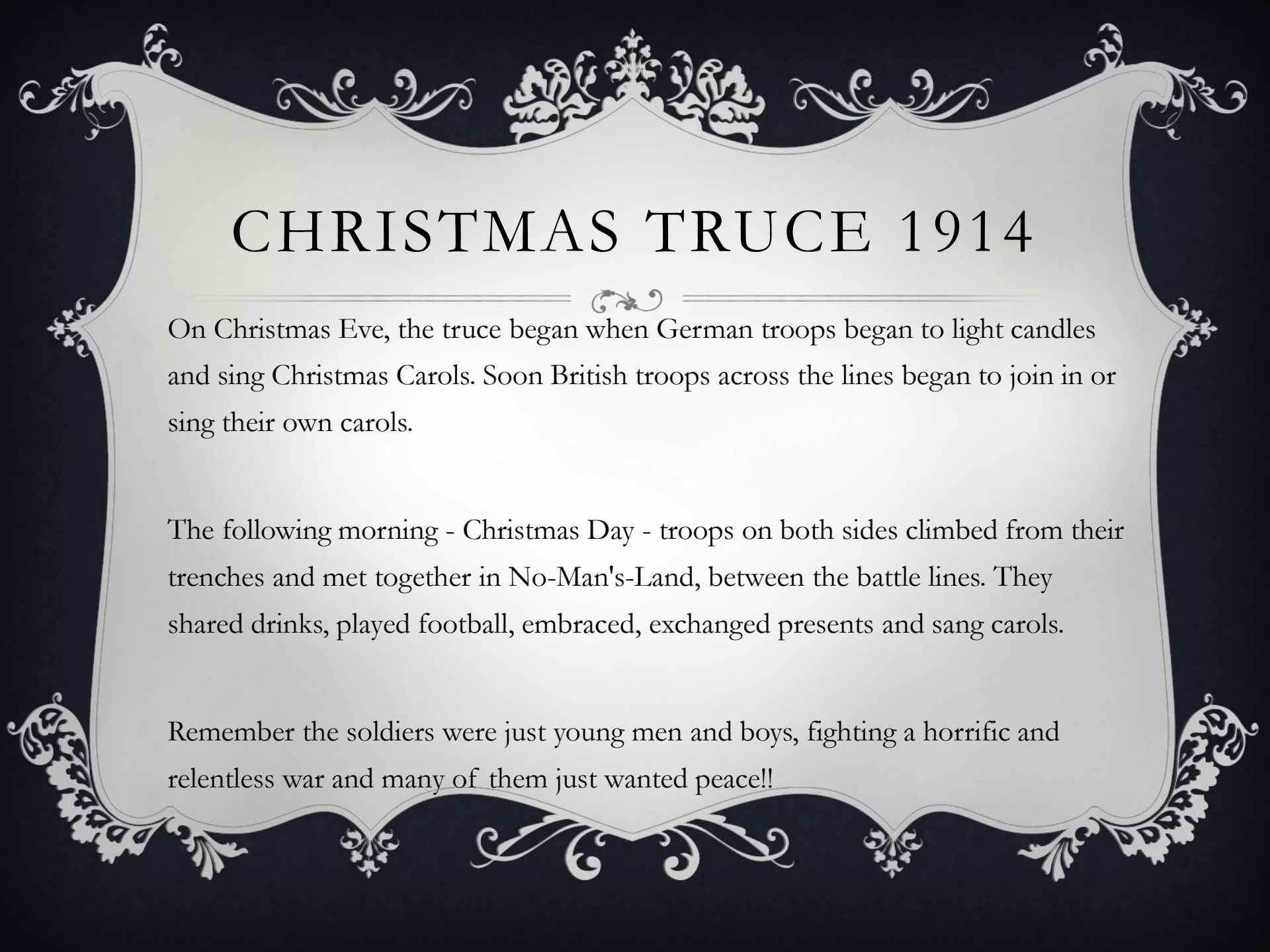
❖ If you think it is unreliable / cannot be trusted or it contains a lot of opinions leaning towards one side, we say it is **biased** or **subjective**.

❖ In order to get a more reliable picture of key events in the past, historians look at a range of different sources of evidence, so they can build up a more reliable and accurate picture about what happened.



WATCH THIS SAINSBURY'S ADVERT
ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE:

- ❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWF2JBb1bvM>
- ❖ What happened in this video clip?
- ❖ How did it make you feel?
- ❖ How do you think the soldiers felt at the time?



CHRISTMAS TRUCE 1914

On Christmas Eve, the truce began when German troops began to light candles and sing Christmas Carols. Soon British troops across the lines began to join in or sing their own carols.

The following morning - Christmas Day - troops on both sides climbed from their trenches and met together in No-Man's-Land, between the battle lines. They shared drinks, played football, embraced, exchanged presents and sang carols.

Remember the soldiers were just young men and boys, fighting a horrific and relentless war and many of them just wanted peace!!



LOOK AT THESE DIFFERENT SOURCES OF
EVIDENCE TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT THE
CHRISTMAS TRUCE.

<https://spartacus-educational.com/FWWchristmas.htm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/xmas-truce/zh8c8xs>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/9qWjq7PL4QmbS9vnG6tQG8/christmas-truce-1914>

YOUR TASK:

- ❖ Imagine you are a newspaper reporter working for the **Times Newspaper** during 1914. You have just heard all about the miracle of the Christmas Truce!
- ❖ Write your own newspaper report describing exactly what happened on that day.
- ❖ Include interviews with a German and English soldier and ask them how they must have felt at that time. (Perhaps, you could interview your grandparents to ask them if they have lived through any wars and what it was like for them in order to give you some ideas.)
- ❖ Remember to lay-out your newspaper into different columns (see the next slide) and use formal language!
- ❖ You could even tea stain your paper to make it look more authentic!

Example Newspaper Template

Newspaper name

Logo and date

Headline

Main article

Photo

An interview with