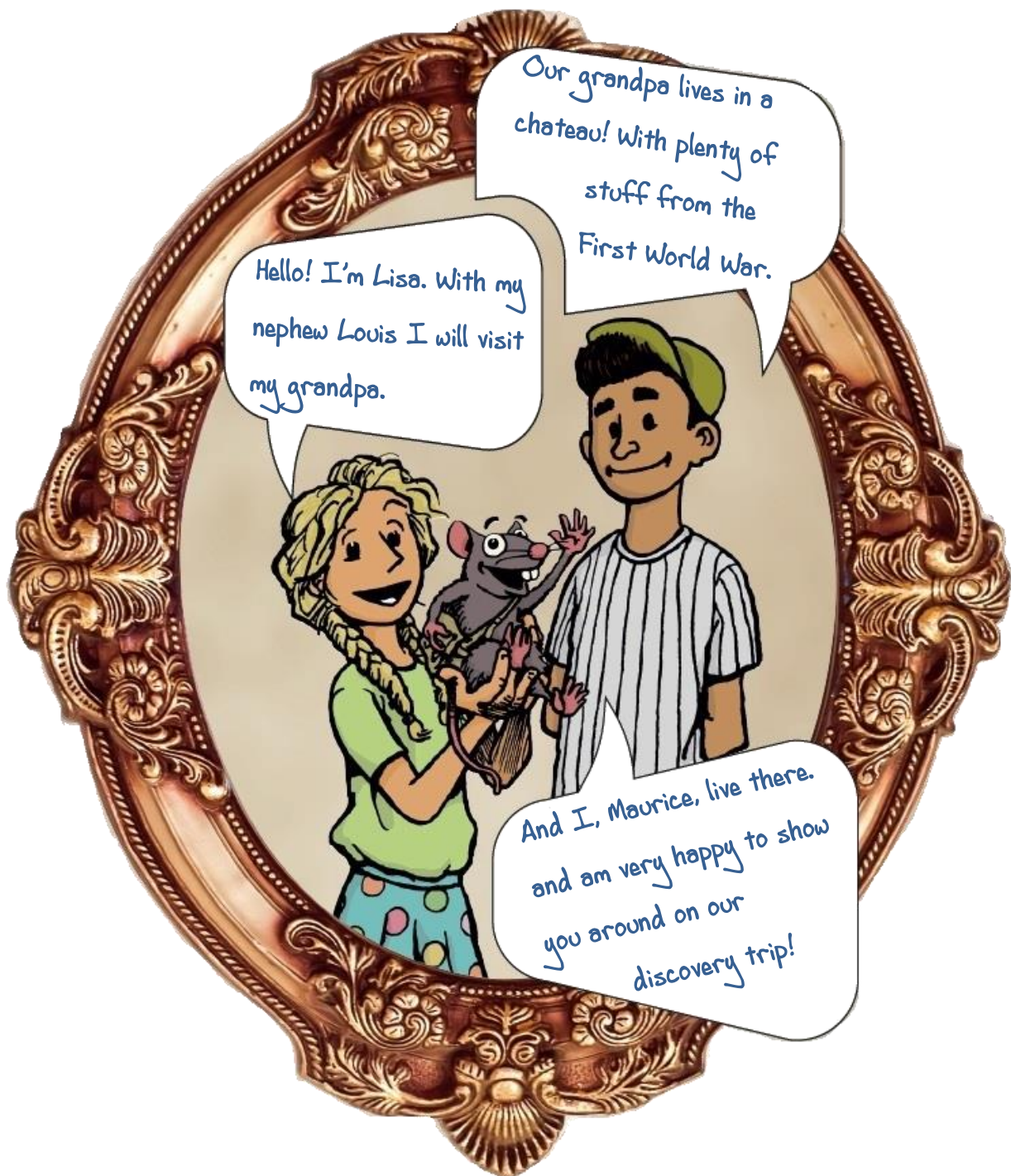


On tour with



Lisa, Louis and Maurice



Soon you will visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 with your class! With this bundle you can prepare your visit.

Before your visit.

Where is grandpa's chateau?

Grandpa's chateau, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, is in Zonnebeke, a small village in the western part of Belgium.



Zonnebeke, like nearby Ypres, was completely destroyed during the First World War. The war raged in all its intensity for four years. In the museum you will encounter all kinds of objects and stories from this period.



The First World War.



In the summer of 1914, Germany declared war on France. The German army had planned to attack France through Belgium. However, the Belgian king Albert I did not agree. The German army commanders did not care about this and on August 4, 1914 the German army invaded Belgium.

The small Belgian army bravely resisted with the assistance of British and French troops. But the German army was too strong and could advance quickly. After more than two months, the Belgians on the Yser river, between Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide, were able to stop the German army. The same happened at Ypres, but it were British and French troops that stopped the opponent in that area. What followed was trench warfare.



↳ **1** Where was the Belgian, French, British and German army located?
Connect the letters associated with the flags with the map.

The front ran straight through Zonnebeke. During the winter there was some shooting and minor attacks happened. But there was no real breakthrough. Meanwhile, the soldiers built a lot of trenches.

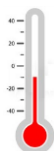


↳ Did you know that during Christmas 1914 opponents fraternized at some locations? This drawing shows such a Christmas truce in Zonnebeke.

Do you recognize who is German or French? German soldiers wore a spiked helmet at the beginning of the war. The French, on the other hand, were not very well camouflaged.

The German army still wanted to go to France. They decided to use a forbidden weapon: gas. In late April 1915, they placed thousands of bottles of chlorine gas in their front line trenches.

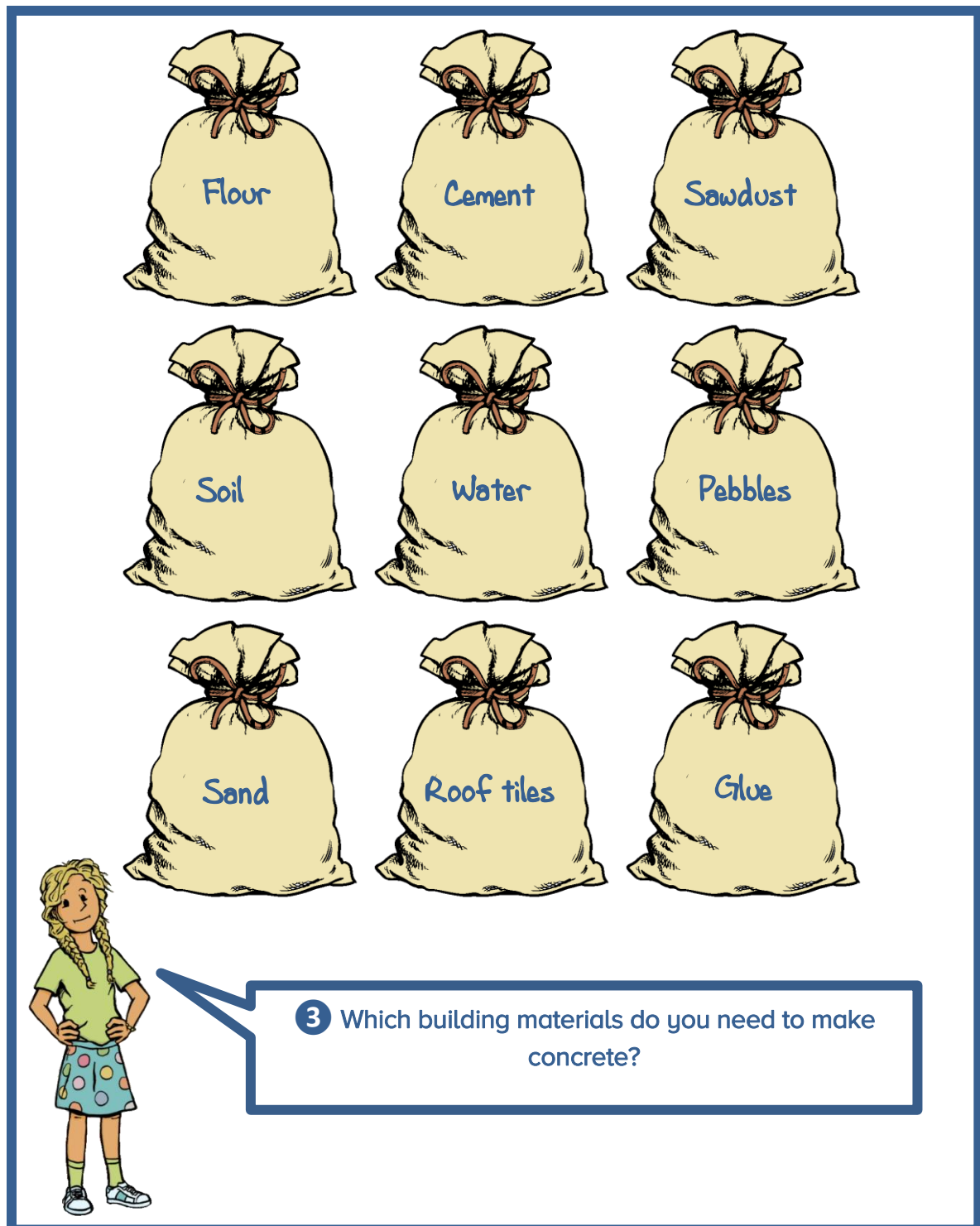
When the wind was good, they opened all those gas bottles. A yellow-green gas cloud rolled over to the completely surprised soldiers on the other side. They fled in panic and gasped. In the front line a gap of 6 kilometres (3.7 miles) was created. Nevertheless, the German army was again brought to a halt.



↳ **2** The first gas attack was many times delayed because of the weather. Indicate what kind of weather is most important for a gas attack. Give some explanation!

The following years were fairly quiet. There were minor attacks and the major battles took place mainly in France. That is why the German army in front of Ypres decided to limit itself to a defensive war. This means that they no longer carried out major attacks and were firmly entrenched.

The German army built a huge network of trenches with endless rows of barbed wire and numerous shelters. Tens of thousands of bunkers were built. These concrete shelters could withstand heavy shelling.



Flour

Cement

Sawdust

Soil

Water

Pebbles

Sand

Roof tiles

Glue

3 Which building materials do you need to make concrete?

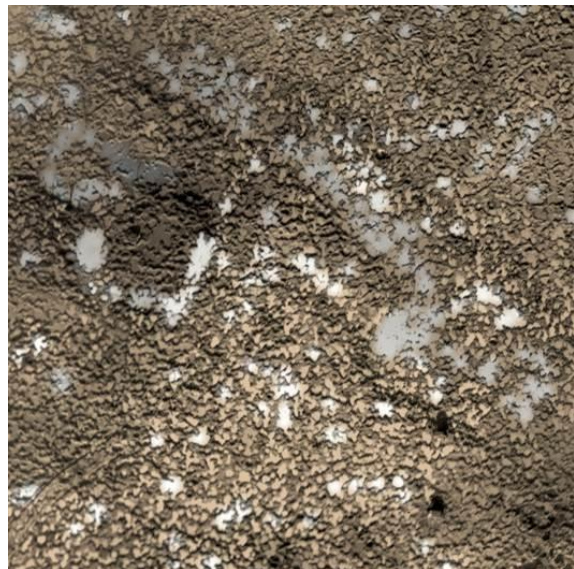


Camouflage was very important during the war. A soldier's clothing should not be noticed in the area. Shelters and trenches were also often hidden, so that the opponent could not fire at them. This bunker in Zonnebeke was hidden in a farm.



In the meantime, the daily life of a soldier never stopped. Behind the front trenches it was much quieter and to pass the time games were played, newspapers were read, ...




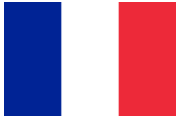




The heaviest battle fought in the area was the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele. The goal is to chase the German army away and conquer the Belgian North Sea ports.



↳ The landscape was completely destroyed in 1917. In this aerial pictures you can see the same place before and after the battle.

The attack was launched on July 31, 1917. The British army had previously fired more than 4 million shells in two weeks. The landscape was completely destroyed. But the concrete bunkers, the target of the shelling, often remained intact.

Australians and New Zealanders were even deployed to strengthen the British. However, the Battle of Passchendaele failed due to the mud, the many barbed wire, bunkers and a strong German army. Just over a hundred days after the attack, Canadians were able to seize the ruins of what used to be Passchendaele. That village, near Zonnebeke, is only 8 kilometers from where the attack started. Tens of thousands of soldiers did not survive.

			
A	B	C	D
			
E	F	G	H

↳ **4** These countries fought in the Battle of Passchendaele. Do you recognize them? For each letter, write the name of the country. Please note: in the museum you will see that the flag sometimes looked completely different during the war!

Numerous underground shelters were built due to the enormous destruction. Especially the British army dug a large number of corridors called "deep dugouts". This allowed the soldiers to take shelter deep underground. Soldiers sat closely together in those dark corridors for days, sometimes weeks or months. It was damp, smelling of sweat, unwashed clothes and simple toilets, and it was full of vermin.



5 How would you arrange a deep dugout?
Make a floor plan and name the different rooms!

Meanwhile, the United States declared war on Germany. The German army realized it had to attack again before the American soldiers arrived. They deployed "storm troops": German soldiers who attacked in smaller groups. They carried very little to make sure they could move quickly and easily.

In April 1918 the German army was able to gain a lot of terrain. They reached the edge of Ypres. But since they had already lost many soldiers and equipment, the German army did not advanced beyond the city.



↳ **6** Belgian king Albert I encouraged his soldiers before the attack. Write down how you would address his men.

Meanwhile, the Belgian army had fought on the Yser river for almost the entire war. King Albert I finally decided to help the British, French and American army to liberate Belgium with them.

The Final Offensive was the last major attack of the First World War. Belgian troops liberated Zonnebeke and Passchendaele. The German army was pushed further and further, towards the city of Ghent. Finally, on November 11, 1918, a truce was signed. World War I was over.

R.P.: MMP1917, Berten Pilstraat 5a
8980 Zonnebeke.

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