

## Camp Upcountry (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Objective:** Students will review samples of WWI post cards and design one of their own.

**Essential Question:** *What did postcards have to do with WWI?*

### SC Social Studies Standards

5-3.6 Summarize actions by the United States that contributed to the rise of this nation as a world power, including the annexation of new territory following the Spanish–American War and the role played by the United States in the building of the Panama Canal and in World War I.

### Background Information

From the Museum:

#### Camp Upcountry

The Upcountry has shown its patriotism, and business sense, by serving as host to military bases for over 200 years. Not only has the Upcountry sent dedicated soldiers into service, but it has also provided places to train them. This tradition pre-dates the American Revolution, when militia troops trained at Fort Prince George, to post-World War II at Donaldson Air Force Base. Throughout the years, residents knew the benefits of having troops nearby. They campaigned to bring military bases to the Upcountry. Local businessmen and businesses then sold land for camps, built houses, outfitted and entertained the men. Come camp payday, according to one newspaper, money “bounced from one merchant’s cash register to another.” It was a win-win situation that supported the country’s defense and boosted the region’s economy.

#### UpCountry Camps

##### Spanish American War

*Camp Wetherill* - Greenville Two sections – First Brigade – north of Earle Street, between Buncombe Street and present day Wade Hampton Boulevard. Whitehall was the only house on the property and was used as a nurse’s home for the Hospital Corps. Second Brigade – south and east of Anderson Street, stretching beyond Mills Mill – headquarters on the site of Greenville General Hospital.

##### World War I

- A. *Camp Sevier* – Greenville  
Two thousand acres north east of the city
- B. *Camp Wadsworth* – Spartanburg

##### World War II

- A. Greenville Air Base – Donaldson Center
- B. Camp Croft – Spartanburg

### Hi Mom! I'm in South Carolina!

Young men from all over the United States trained in Upcountry military camps. Coming to the South was a big adjustment for many of them. They were living among strangers in an unfamiliar region of the country while they prepared for war overseas.

Hard-working soldiers made the most of their time off. They toured the Upcountry, went to dances sponsored by townspeople, or wrote letters to their families that sometimes described their new "hometowns."

The bitterly cold winter of 1898-1899 surprised soldiers from northern states, who expected "to loll around in the shade of palm trees and gorge on oranges and bananas."

### "The Spirit of the American Doughboy"

Sculptor Ernest Moore Viquesney created this seven-foot tall World War I infantryman. After crafting this realistic figure in 1920, the artist Viquensney dubbed the statue "The spirit of the American Doughboy" in 1934. The model is perfect to the smallest detail. Found in 35 states, the doughboy may have been seen more than any other statue in America, besides the Statue of Liberty. This sculpture, dedicated at Furman University to six students who died in the War, was first erected as a memorial. Today, the Museum is his permanent home, and a replica resides at the University.

Other detailed background information about these topics can be found in:

Text chapters Scott Foresman Growth of a Nation Chapter 6 *Becoming a World Power*

The History of South Carolina in the Building of the Nation by Archie Vernon Huff, Jr  
Chapters 24 *The Progressive Movement*

Greenville The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont by Archie Vernon Huff pp. 279-286

When the Soldiers Came to Town Spartanburg Historical Society

Greetings from Camp Sevier by Richard Sawyer

The South Carolina Encyclopedia edited by Walter Edgar

Various books in the South Carolina Room at the Greenville Library

### Primary Activity: WWI Postcards

Postal cards were a universal medium of communication at a time when the only avenues of mass communication were printed newspapers, journals, books, posters and the mail. The postcard industry reached its peak during World War I, as millions of civilians and soldiers sent hasty messages back and forth. Soldiers at the front could only send terse, pre-printed cards from the trenches ("I am well", "I am wounded", "I am in receipt of your letter", etc.), but they could easily find commercial postcards in the villages just behind the front lines. The civilians on the home front had a vast array of sentimental or humorous or patriotic postcards to send to their boys.

### Materials

- Blank postcard (attached)
- Postcard Sample Collection (attached)

### Procedure

1. Print out the blank postcard sheet (one per student)
2. Print out the Postcard Sample Collection (one per student).
3. Have students look at the postcard samples paying attention to the variety of postcards that were made –some were generic, some depicted photos of camp life and some were cartoons.
4. Have students design their own postcard for Camp Sevier or Wadsworth featuring an aspect of the camp or a humorous look at camp life.
5. Students can then write a note on the text side of the postcard from a WWI soldier's point of view to a friend or family member back home.

### Assessment

A rubric can be used to assess this project:

Student creates a post card with illustrations – 5 points

Student writes a note to a friend or family member describing camp life -5 points

### Cross-Curricular Activities

#### *Social Studies*

\* Print out a copy of the Map of Camp Sevier (attached). Have students make note of the different kinds of buildings (barracks, hospital, warehouses) and training grounds. Students can design their own military base map. What would you put on the base to meet the soldiers needs (dorms, a video store, restaurants, hospitals, recreational facilities)? Make areas for training grounds. What roads or railroad lines would you need?

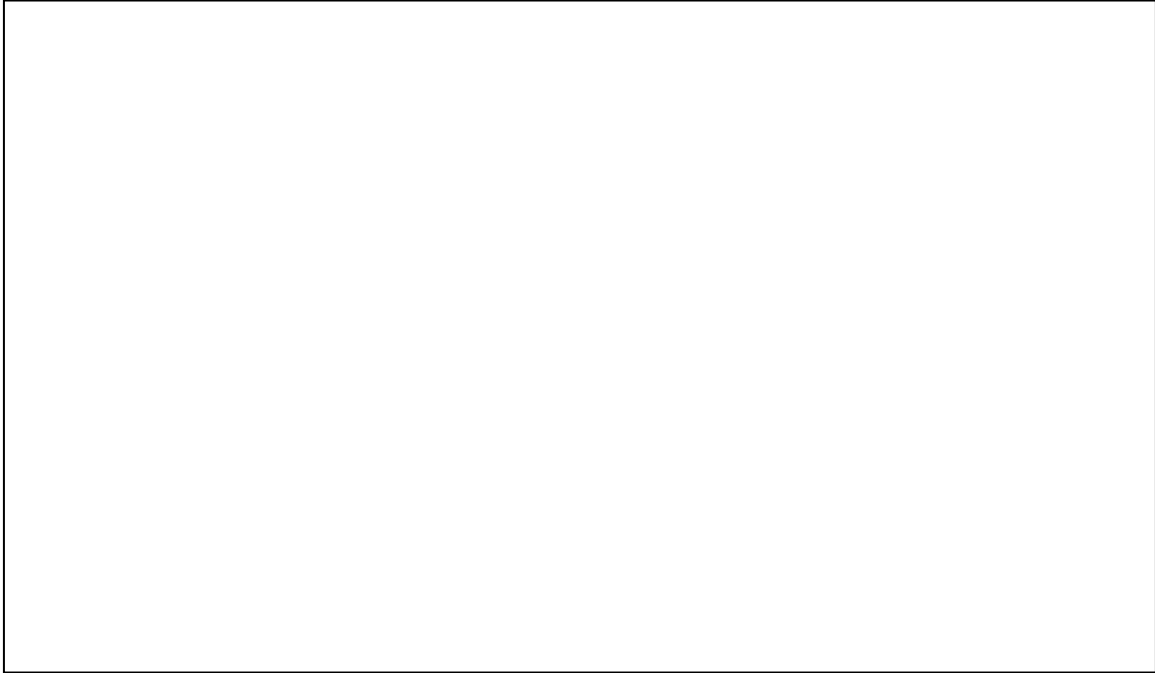
*Writing*

\* Write a persuasive piece convincing the US government to build a new military camp in your area. List geographical and economic reasons and resources your area has to convince them.

*Research and Language arts*

\* Find markers or monuments in your area commemorating WWI soldiers. Photograph them and write up a short description. In Greenville there is a monument (intersection of W. Lee Road and Pine Knoll Drive) and historical marker (Wade Hampton Boulevard) to Camp Sevier and a marker for the soldiers at the Springwood Cemetery.

Drawing



Text

