

The Christmas Truce



1) Discussion

- a) Who are your country's rivals at football?
 - b) Can you think of any examples of football bringing people together?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Truce (noun) | a) To begin again after stopping temporarily. |
| 2) Brutal (adjective) | b) A temporary agreement to stop fighting or arguing. |
| 3) Trench (noun) | c) The middle of something; surrounded by or among a group of things or people. |
| 4) Bitter (adjective) | d) Extremely harsh, violent, or cruel. |
| 5) To resume (verb) | e) Showing kindness, care, and understanding towards others who are suffering or in need. |
| 6) Midst (noun) | f) Very unpleasant or painful, often used to describe feelings or experiences. |
| 7) Compassion (noun) | g) A long, narrow ditch dug in the ground, especially as a defensive military fortification. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Truce Brutal Trench Bitter
To Resume Midst Compassion

- 1) During the heated match, there were a lot of bad tackles and arguments until a _____ was called by the referees to calm the situation.
- 2) After halftime, both teams emerged from the changing rooms ready to _____ the match.
- 3) The goalkeeper stood firm in the _____ of an attack, making save after save to keep his team in the match.
- 4) Despite their _____ defeat, the team remained determined to improve and bounce back stronger next season.
- 5) Jose Mourinho is famous for showing _____ to his players.
- 6) During World War 1, football in the UK was postponed as many players went to fight in the _____ of France.
- 7) Playing Eastern European teams in the Champions League can sometimes be difficult, especially during winter, because of the _____ weather conditions.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What happened on the 24th of December 1914?
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The 1914 Christmas Truce

The Christmas Truce of 1914 was a remarkable event during World War I, where soldiers from different countries stopped fighting and came together in a temporary ceasefire. Before the truce, the soldiers were stuck in brutal trench warfare, facing cold winter conditions. But as Christmas approached, something extraordinary happened.

On Christmas Eve, soldiers from the UK, France, Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia decided to lay down their weapons. They left their trenches and met in the space between, called *No Man's Land*. There, they exchanged gifts, sang songs, and even played football.

Football was especially important during the truce. Soldiers set up games, with makeshift balls and goalposts set up in the snow-covered fields of no man's land. In laughter and shouts of encouragement, bitter enemies became teammates, united by their love for the beautiful game. enjoying moments of fun together. It was a big difference to the fighting that had been happening just hours before.

But sadly, the truce didn't last long. Orders from their commanders and fear of punishment forced the soldiers to return to their trenches by Christmas night. The war resumed, but the memory of the Christmas Truce remained.

Even though the truce was short-lived, it showed that even in the midst of war, people can come together in peace. It's a reminder that humanity and compassion can shine through, even in the darkest times.



4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on the Christmas Truce of 1914?
- b) Are you surprised that two enemies could come together over a game of football?
- c) Why do you think football has the power to bring people together?

