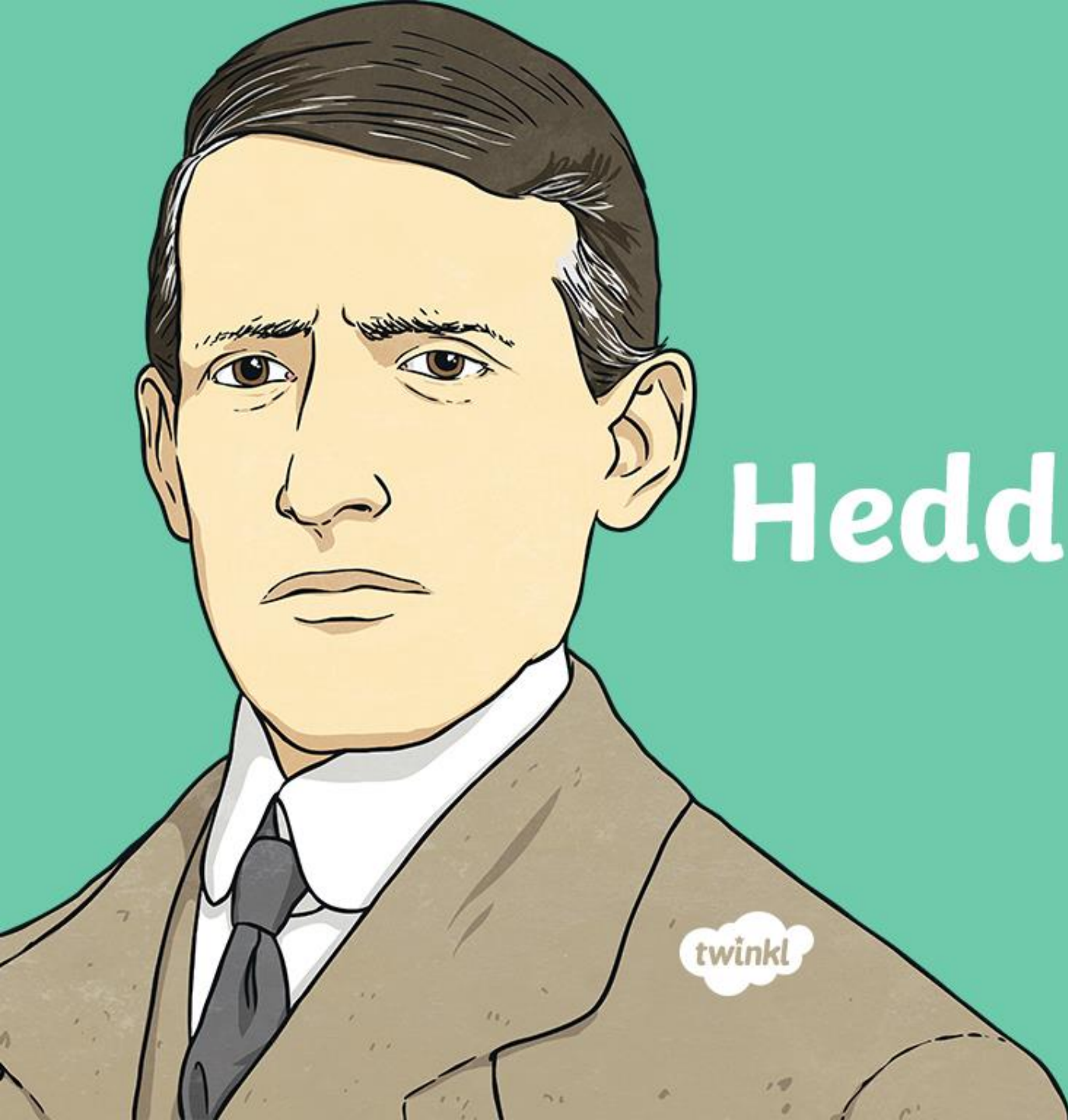




Hedd Wyn

twinkl

Who Was Hedd Wyn?

His real name was Ellis Humphrey Evans. Hedd Wyn was his poetic name.

He was born in *Penlan* cottage in 1887 and the family moved to a smallholding called *Yr Ysgwrn* in Trawsfynydd when Ellis was four years old.

He was the eldest of ten children. All of his brothers and sisters thought the world of him. He was always kind, helpful and tried to make others laugh.



His Home–*Yr Ysgwrn*

His home was a cosy smallholding on the edge of a mountain. As there were ten children in the family, life was hard and all members had to farm the land.

It was important for everyone to help farm the land in order to produce enough food.

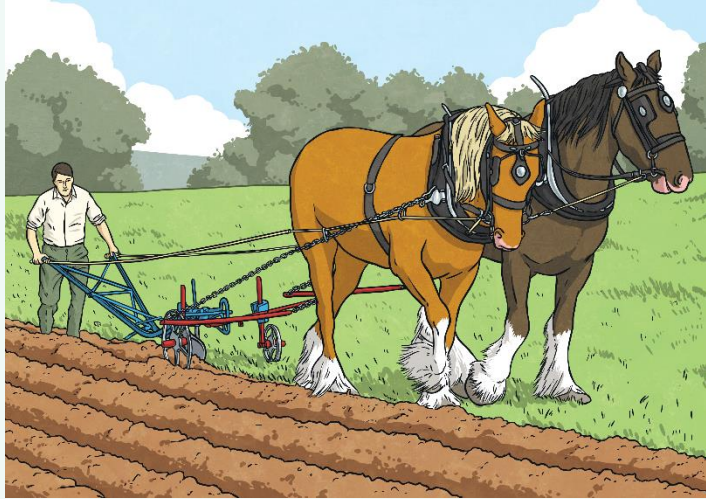
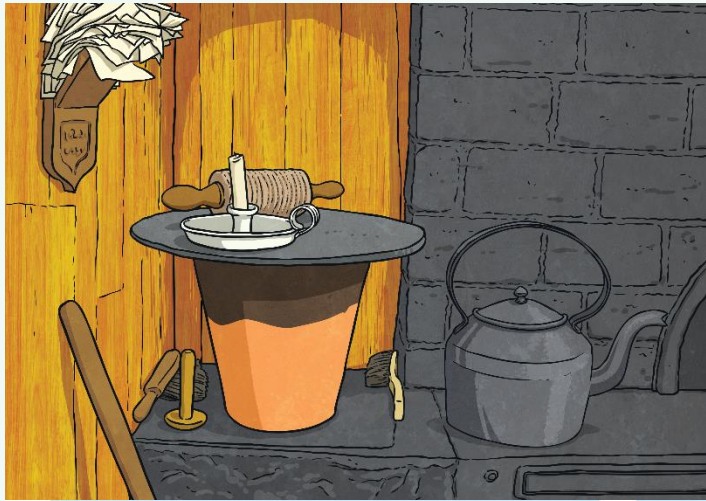
There was no heating, electricity or gas in the house at that time.



His Home—*Yr Ysgwrn*



Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd



Trawsfynydd



Yr Ysgwrn



The Famous Poet

He was a famous poet and he competed in Eisteddfodau until the First World War (1914-1918).

He won his first prize when he was 12 years old!



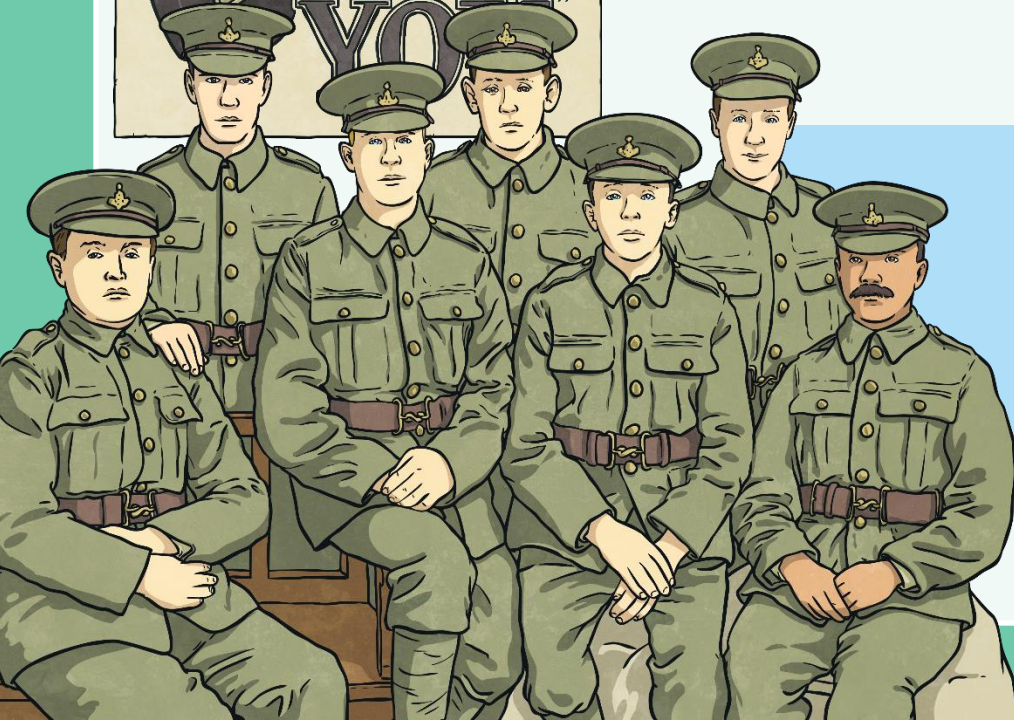
The First World War 1914-1918



The First World War started in 1914.

There was a huge amount of pressure on young men to enlist and fight. Ellis desperately didn't want to go.

But one son from every farm had to enlist. As he was the eldest, he was determined not to allow his younger brother to go to war and decided he had to join the forces himself.



The First World War 1914-1918

He felt deeply sad leaving his beloved family and what the purpose of the war was.

Like many other young men at the time, Ellis didn't understand what they were fighting for and what was the purpose of the war. However, they had to fight although he didn't understand how shooting another man would solve the problem of war.



Going to Passchendaele

He joined the 15th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in January 1917.

It was muddy and cold there. It was a horrible place where soldiers were being killed one-by-one there. There wasn't enough food and the shelters kept flooding with water. The soldiers were 'knee deep' in mud.

The soldiers didn't have any beds; men slept in the mud.

Many men were desperate to go home and for the war to end.



Poetry

Ellis continued to write his poetry in between the fighting in Belgium!

His greatest desire was to win the Chair in the National Eisteddfod of Wales. The title of his poem was 'The Hero' ('Yr Arwr').

He asked his officer if he could post the poem to the Eisteddfod in Birkenhead. In the beginning, the officer did not want to do this as he had never heard of the Eisteddfod.

He gave the officer the poem and begged him to send it off as this could be his last chance of winning the Chair. Within two days, the officer came to tell him that he had sent it off to the Eisteddfod. Ellis was very happy.

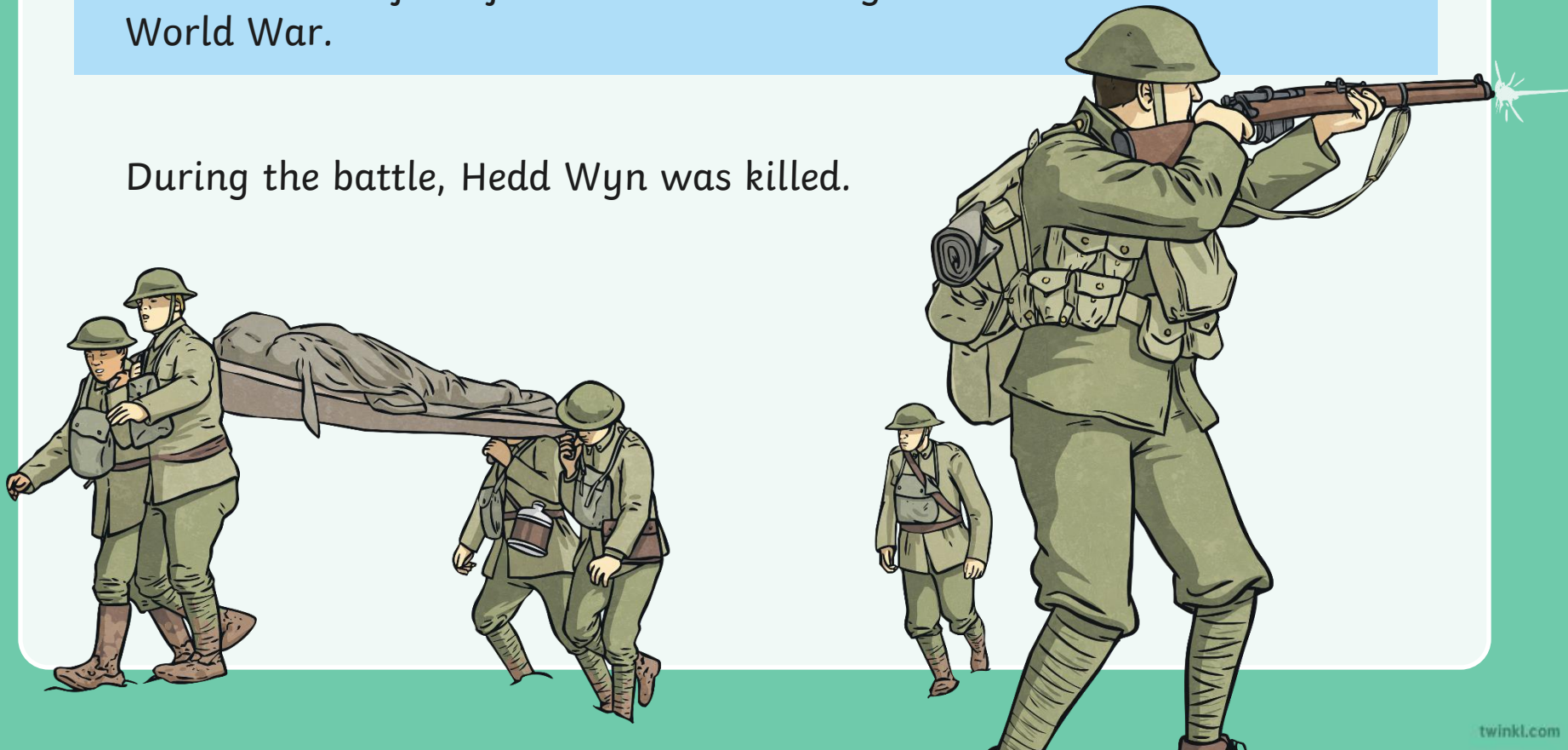


Battle of Passchendaele

Ellis took part in the terrible battle at Passchendaele.

This was one of the fiercest battles during the First World War.

During the battle, Hedd Wyn was killed.



Winning the Chair in the National Eisteddfod

Ellis came first in the competition and won the Chair. It was announced in the Eisteddfod that the author of the poem had been killed in Belgium. This was the prize that Ellis had hoped to win. He wasn't there to claim his prize. His wounded body lay in the mud in Passchendaele; the Eisteddfod was filled with silence and grief.

They draped the Chair with a black material.

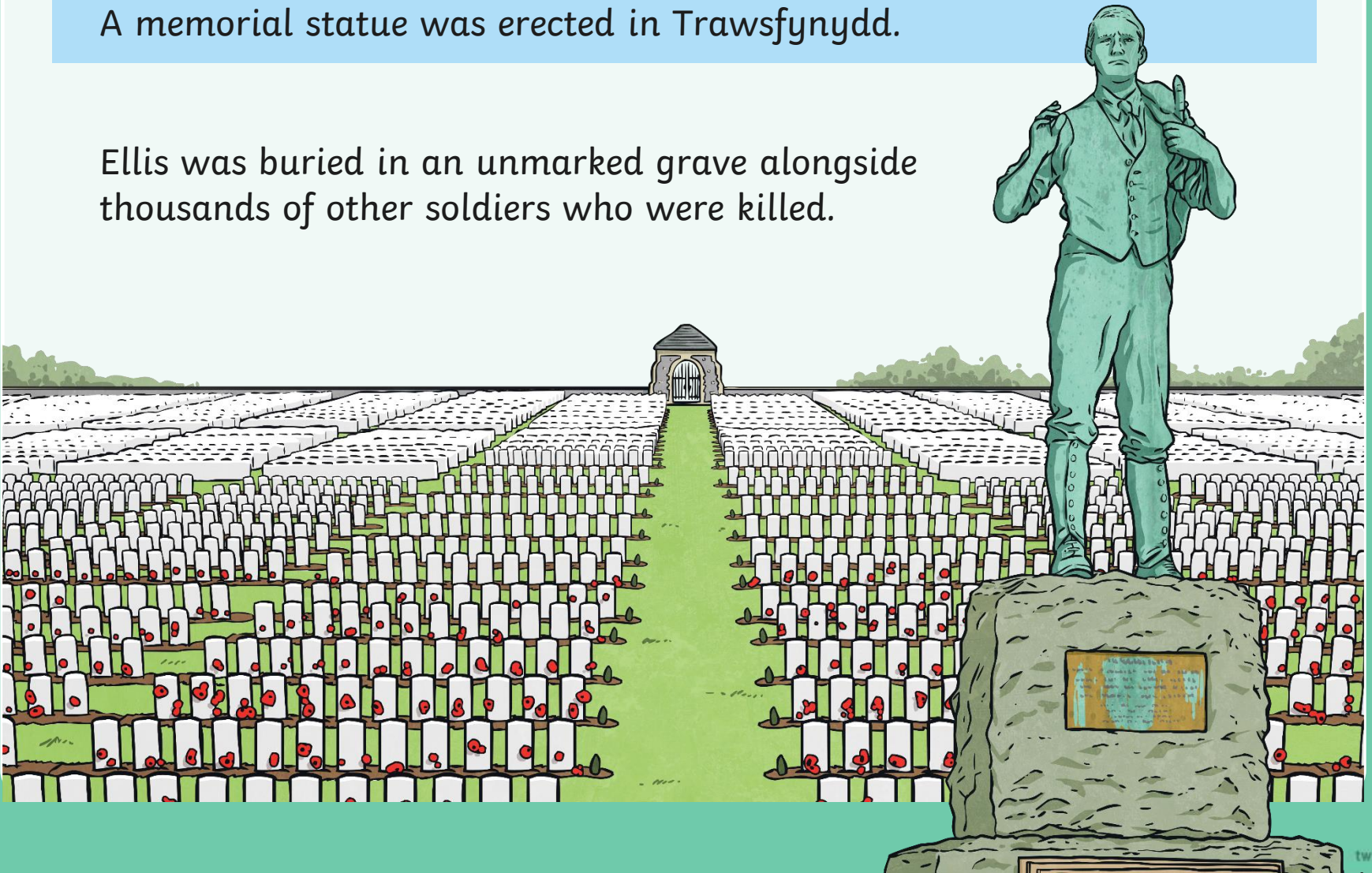
The Chair was transported by horse and cart from Birkenhead to his home, *Yr Ysgwrn*, on 13th September 1917.



Remembering Hedd Wyn

A memorial statue was erected in Trawsfynydd.

Ellis was buried in an unmarked grave alongside thousands of other soldiers who were killed.



Hedd Wyn



Y Gadiar Ddu – The Black Chair

Video on HWB



Hedd Wyn





18.11.2018

