



# Virginia 4-H MAKING the Future

\*18 U.S.C. 707

## WWI Maker Activities

### Facilitator Tips

The WWI Maker Activities can be delivered in multiple settings and can be adapted across several age groups. They are designed to spark an interest for children and youth to learn about various topics related to WWI.

### Facilitation

The WWI Military Maker Activities are guided activities that open the door to Maker Education by offering questions of what happens 'if'. Whether at a larger community event or with small group facilitation the children and youth (C&Y) should be asked questions to think about how, what, and why their model worked well or could have worked better. Suggested questions, reviewed in advance, provide a starting point for the C&Y to process what they experienced, to discover ways to explore further, and to try creative ways to address a relevant problem or idea that comes organically out of the experience. Reminding them to 'Ask yourself,' 'What happens if you,' and 'Ask yourself again' focuses solution orientation back to the C&Y. Rather than read the questions in a scripted way, use the questions as response tools to organically connect, probe and debrief right where the C&Y are in their process of learning.

Become familiar with the accompanying support documents: *The Science Behind it* and *The History Behind it*. Be alert for opportunities to weave short bites of information into the activity. For example: When making the seed tape, a facilitator could say, "Have you ever planted a garden? Did you know that nearly 100 years ago, during World War I, schools had programs to teach students how to grow their own food so that we would all have enough food during the war? It was called the School Garden Army and the students were called Soldiers of the Soil. What similar programs are happening today around gardening and healthy eating? How does the theme of Fresh and Local play a role in today's eating?"

### Settings

Community Events (museum, library, community center, military installation or Extension office)

1. Single activities can be integrated into an existing event to provide hands-on family engagement opportunities on a targeted WWI topic. For example, the *Seed Tape* activity could be offered at an agriculture or garden show or the *Making Music* activity could be offered at a local concert.
2. The series of activities can be offered through a single Military Maker family event. The event could feature reenactors, speakers, storytellers, local and state WWI information as well as a series of booths or tables to explore each of the WWI Maker Activities.

Note: It is recommended that enlargements of *The History Behind It* be posted prominently at community events. Additionally, the history and science handouts should be available for children, youth, and families as reference documents after the event.

Small Group Facilitation (afterschool programs, youth groups or clubs, libraries, installation youth centers, or schools) Offering a single activity as part of an ongoing series of WWI Maker Activities in small group settings provides opportunities to explore one topic area deeper and for longer periods of time. The activity can be expanded through experimentation and challenges that springboard from discussions. The *Science Behind It* and *The History Behind It* are brief introductions that can stimulate rich learning from information provided.

[www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/makers](http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/makers)

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