

## Questions to Encourage Class Discussion on OPCW FIRES Film [Buried memories](#)

This film follows Polish archaeologist, Anna Zalewska, as she and her team excavate a site near the Rawka river where the battle of Bolimow took place in 1915. Tsarist (Russian) and many conscripted Polish servicemen faced German and Austria –Hungarian forces in this battle. This film records the sensitive mapping of the site of the battle, and the deadly release of 240 tonnes of liquid chlorine from 12.000 gas cylinders (some 2 and ½ times the quantity released at Ypres). Follow along as Anna's team documents and records of all that was found.

### Questions

1. What should happen at old battle sites? Should anyone be able to explore the site (s) and remove what they find?
2. What can archaeological excavations of historic battle sites tell us?
3. Is it important to investigate all historic sites? Why?
4. Why is battlefield archaeology, which relates to the recent past, important for the future?
5. Where were chemical weapons used for the first time? Ypres was on the western front, but what took place on the eastern one and when?
6. Were the uniforms the soldiers wore an advantage or disadvantage?
7. Why pay tribute to fallen unknown-soldiers who fought under different banners and in foreign ranks because of the partition of Poland by the Germans, Russians and Austrians?
8. Why pay tribute to fallen, unknown soldiers who have used chemical weapons?
9. Can battle re-enactments help prevent future wars, or do they promote them?