

Activity Three:

“We came back one night from our yam farm. The chief called us and handed us over to a government messenger. I didn't know where we were going, but the chief and the messenger said that the white man had sent for us and we must go. After three days, we reached the white man's compound.

Plenty of others had arrived from other villages far away. And the white man wrote our names in a book. And tied a brass numbered ticket round our necks and gave each man a blanket and food.

Then he told us we were going to the Great War to help the king's soldiers who were preventing the Germans coming to our country and burning it. We left and marched far into the bush. The government police led the way and allowed no man to stop behind.” Nwose, recruited in Eastern Nigeria in 1914.

Discuss in pairs or small groups:

Why do you think Nwose felt they had to go with the government messenger?

Why do you think the chief acted as they did?

How truthful do you think the ‘white man’ mentioned above was when talking to Nwose?