

Focus on Child Soldiers in ABOUT WAR

1. [Children / Youth as Peacebuilders \(CAP\)](#), a partner organization in this project, conducted the workshops to the children who are featured in this gallery. Research CAP, then create a 3-fold brochure or 30 second video to promote this group to people of your age.
2. Go to the [Children/Youth as Peacebuilders](#) website to learn about the Lord's Resistance forced wife system, which was an important part of its war strategies. Make a report to the class on what you've learned.
3. **War Child Canada** works to prevent the use of child soldiers and to provide assistance for their reintegration into their families and communities. Watch a 1 min. powerful [video](#). Make a report to your class on this organization.
4. **War Child UK** has produced music to raise money. [Learn about it](#), then listen to and write a music review of one of these albums using Wikihow - Writing a Music Review.
5. Read [this article](#) published by Al Jazeera to learn about the experiences of girl child soldiers. Create a talk show style video in which one student is the interviewer and the other 3 take on the roles of three of the girls described.
6. The **Romeo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative** focuses on the forced recruitment of children and youth and their use as soldiers in many of today's civil wars. It provides training to assist armies and police to help protect young people and to provide effect demobilisation of young people who have been able to escape from these ruthless armed groups. Romeo Dallaire has given many speeches on this issue. Click [here](#) to read about his initiative, then tell your class about it.
7. **VTECS: Canadian veterans invited to enlist to avert use of child soldiers.** This is another initiative of the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative. Use the FAQs [at this site](#) to create a three fold brochure or 30 sec. video to encourage Canadian veterans to enlist in this project.
8. **Children on the Front Line** Listen to this [BBC audio report](#) from Northern Iraq on the changing role of child soldiers. 28 minutes. Make a report on what you've learned.
9. **Ex-Child** – Animated, National Film Board, 1994, 4 min. 57 sec.

Summary: This [short animated NFB film](#) tells the story of a young boy and his father who are both enlisted to fight in a war. The boy's pride soon turns to fear as the bullets whistle overhead. His father takes his place and is immediately shot and killed. Horrified, the boy understands that war is not a game.

Based on Article 38 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, this film illustrates the right of children under the age of 15 not to be recruited into the armed forces.

Question/Area for Research: What exactly does [Article 38](#) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child say?

Make a poster to illustrate this article.

- 10. "We Can Die Too"** Read [this article](#) on child soldiers in Sudan. Create a group of five. One will be the interviewer and the remaining four will be experts on the following topics, all explored in the article cited above:

- a. Overview of why children have fought in the conflict
- b. Recruitment and use of child soldiers by government forces
- c. Importance of education in preventing recruitment
- d. Release of child soldiers.

The interviewer will read the four relevant sections in this report, prepare questions to ask each expert and send the questions to the experts.

The experts will prepare their answers.

The group of 5 will practise their interview several times and then either:

Present a panel discussion for the class and take questions afterward.

Record the interview and post on the internet, seeking comments and discussion and responding to posts.

- 11.** View the 2012 [film on Joseph Kony](#), leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. Make a report on this film and the controversy following its release.

Additional Resources:

[Beasts of No Nation](#), available on Netflix, 137 mins.

This film, which was nominated for an Academy Award, takes the viewer inside civil war, using the perspective of a young boy who is captured and forced to serve with an illegal armed group.

[Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls are Used in War](#) by Michel Chikwanine

At the age of five, while celebrating a goal in an after-school game of soccer, Chikwanine was kidnapped by rebel fighters in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He eventually managed to escape, but not before he was subjected to some truly horrific experiences. Chikwanine's ordeal involved being verbally and physically assaulted, being cut and having cocaine and gunpowder rubbed into his wound, and being forced to kill another boy — all at the age of just five years. Chikwanine still struggles with guilt and nightmares.

Watch this 17 minute [video interview](#) of Michel's interview with Shad of CBC radio's q aired on Sept. 9, 2015.

[Soldier Child](#) 55 MINS.

Since 1990, rebel-leader and [religious fanatic Joseph Kony](#) has abducted Ugandan children, brainwashed them, and then forced them to commit indescribable atrocities against their own families and friends as child soldiers in the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Filmmaker Neil Abramson chronicles the plight of children in war-torn northern Uganda and the efforts of the Ugandan people to rehabilitate these children and reintroduce them into society.

[Taliban Child Fighters](#) 27 MINS.

10 year-old Neaz was abducted to fight for the Taliban but escaped. But other children choose to fight for the Taliban. Watch this film to learn why.

[Teenage Soldiers Adult Wars](#) by Roger Rosen, edited by Patra McSharry

Grade 8 Up-- While adults make the decision to wage war, it is often teenagers who carry out the orders. In this excellent collection of short stories and essays, teenage soldiers in troubled areas around the world express their front-line view of military conflict. From Northern Ireland to Tienanmen Square, from the Middle East to Lithuania, young writers and former soldiers tell their personal stories, giving readers insight into the realities behind today's newspaper headlines.

[The Haunted Child Soldier: An Interactive Graphic Novel](#)

Former child soldiers struggle to resume normal life. Four stories are featured in a new online graphic novel treatment. The result is an online graphic novel that

depicts the stories of four female returnees — two of whom rejoined their pre-war communities as recently as September 2014.

[Christine's full story](#)

[Grace's story](#)

[Jacinta's story](#)

[Mary's story](#)

The Toronto Star turned the stories of these women into online, interactive graphic journalism, with scroll-triggered animation, photographs and pop-up videos accompanying illustrated panels.

War Child by Emmanuel Jal

Jal was a seven year old Sudanese boy when he was conscripted into the Christian Sudanese Liberation Army, one of 10,000 child soldiers, and fought through two separate civil wars over nearly a decade. Jal survived, and his life began to change when he was adopted by a British aid worker. He began the journey that would lead him to change his name and to music: recording and releasing his own album, which produced the number one hip-hop single in Kenya. Shocking, inspiring, and finally hopeful, *War Child* is a memoir by a unique young man, who is determined to tell his story and in so doing bring peace to his homeland.

WarChild UK has developed [lesson plans](#) on Child Soldiers.