

WOMEN IN WAR *Teacher Resource***ACTIVITY 1: Pictures of Women in War****Description:**

In this activity students will critically analyze images of Women in War. By assessing a variety of images students will be able to use this visual information to help them formulate a character for their letters.

Materials:

- 10 Images of Women in War with corresponding tasks/questions.
- Student Activity document

Procedure:

1. Print then post the pictures and their corresponding tasks around the room. Consider posting excerpts from the article for source 3.
2. Divide students evenly among the pictures.
3. Have students examine each picture and complete the tasks (either posted at each station, or a copy printed for each student), rotating them through to the next picture after a few minutes. Amount of time given is at the teachers' discretion. Alternatively, students can work through the pictures at the own pace and in any order they'd like.
4. Discuss stations as a large group using the information below in the teacher resource.

Assessment: Each student will write a journal entry answering the following questions:

- a) What image did you find the most surprising? Why?
- b) What image do you think will help you to create the character for your letter?
- c) What about this picture inspired you?

Information about each image: (print, cut out and post with pictures)

1. Ronnie, the Bren Gun Girl

Background information:

Veronica Foster worked at John Inglis Co. Ltd producing Bren light machine guns on a production line in Toronto, Ontario. She represents the almost one million women who toiled in armaments factories during the Second World War. The Lakeview small arms and munitions factory, where Veronica worked, employed 16,000 women. (Adapted from warhistoryonline.com)

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Describe what you see in the photograph.
- b. When was this photograph taken? What do you see in the photograph that helps you make that assumption?
- c. What do you imagine she is thinking about?

2. Norma Jean photographed by David Conover

Background information:

David Conover (June 26, 1919 - December 21, 1983) was an author and documentary photographer who is credited with discovering Marilyn Monroe while taking photos for *Yank* magazine. While attached to the U.S. Army Air Forces' First Motion Picture Unit, his commanding officer was future U.S. president Ronald Reagan, who had sent Conover to the Radioplane Munitions Factory where he discovered Monroe.

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Describe what you see in the photograph.
- b. Is she a factory worker? Why do you think so, or why not?
- c. Who is the woman in the photograph?

3. Mary Greyeyes

Background information:

"Mary Greyeyes being blessed by her native Chief prior to leaving for service in the CWAC, 1942."
Source: Library and Archives Canada/Department of National Defence fonds/PA-129070


Please see article regarding the authenticity of the picture:
<https://thetyee.ca/Life/2012/08/07/Canadian-War-Photograph/>

Tasks/Questions:

- a. When was this photograph taken? Why do you think so?
- b. What message does this image send?

4. Their Real Pin-up Girl

Background information:

Creator: Hungerford, Cyrus C. 
Source: The Library of Congress

About Cy Hungerford:

Cyrus Cotton "Cy" Hungerford (1889-May 25, 1983) was an American editorial cartoonist who produced daily cartoons for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 1927 until his retirement in 1977. His many awards included a Golden Quill Award (1966), a Pennsylvania Award of Excellence (1970) and the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts from Washington and Jefferson College. [...] During World War II he produced defense posters. [...] Cy Hungerford died on May 25, 1983 in the Pittsburgh suburb of Wexford, Pennsylvania at the age of 93. His first wife, Alice Meade, whom he married in 1942, died in 1964, and he died four days after the death of his second wife Dorothy Goetz.

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Describe what you see in the picture.
- b. What message is this image sending?
- c. Do you think this advertisement is effective? Do you find it persuasive?

5. Women's Army recruits drilling. United Kingdom, 8th May 1917.

Background information:

Photo by Topical Press Agency which was a British photo agency active in the first half of the twentieth century. Prominent photographers working for Topical included John Warwick Brooke, one of the first official British photographers of the First World War.

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Describe what you see in the picture?
- b. Is there anything missing in this picture?

6. Shoulder to Shoulder

Background information:

This image is a Canadian poster from the Second World War. Part of the small text reads as follows: "...The Canadian Women's Army Corps marches shoulder to shoulder with Canada's Active Army down the road that leads to victory. Releasing their brothers-in -arms from many vital military activities, members of this now-famous corps have proudly and efficiently taken up their duties as an integral part of the Canadian Army"

Tasks/Questions:

- a. What message does this ad send?
- b. Is equal value placed on the tasks of the men and women? Why/why not?
- c. What can you infer about the men's jobs from this ad?

7. Making bombs and buying bonds

Background information:

The source of the photo is unknown but is from the Second World War. The Canadian Government sold Victory Bonds to Canadian citizens, private corporations and various organizations in order to raise funds to pay for the war. (<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/posters/bonds.aspx>)

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Describe what you see in the photograph.
- b. What message is this ad sending? Is it effective?

8. Captain Nichola Goddard

Background information:

Captain Nichola Kathleen Sarah Goddard, MSM was the first female Canadian combat soldier killed in combat, and the 16th Canadian soldier killed in Canadian operations in Afghanistan.

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Describe what you see in this picture?
- b. What is different about her image than the others?

9. WW1 Red Cross Nurses in the Field—Voluntary Aid Detachment

Background information:

The British Red Cross Society formed the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) in 1909 to provide auxiliary medical service in the event of war. Most women who volunteered with this unit were not professional nurses. They attended classes in first aid, home nursing, and hygiene with the St. John Ambulance Association for between three and six months and also volunteered in hospitals, making beds, taking temperatures, and performing other duties. Open-air drills also taught VADs to build and cook on camp fires, pitch hospital tents, and care for wounded soldiers. Source: http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/women_front.html

Questions/Tasks:

- a. Describe what you see in this photograph.
- b. What challenges do you think these women may have faced?

10. Canadian Nursing Sisters Sitting in a Group

Background Information:

A group of Canadian nursing sisters sit outside a tent at the No. 2 Canadian General Hospital in Le Treport, France, ca. 1916-17 (Library and Archives Canada Mikan # 1965681). From <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>: This photo is part of a collection consisting “of an album of chronologically-arranged photographs possibly created and certainly collected by Alice E. Isaacson during the period 1916-1919 when she was a Nursing Sister with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France.”

Tasks/Questions:

- a. Imagine the experience that these ladies may have had on this day and briefly write the story.