

LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

WOMEN IN WAR

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will identify key features of visual data
- Students will demonstrate verbal reasoning and debate skills
- Students will describe multiple perspectives
- Students will describe the historical and present role of females in combat

INTRODUCTION:

Canada has sent men and women off to war since the founding of our nation. Canada participated in both World Wars, the Korean War, the Gulf War, and more recently the War in Afghanistan. While we hear about these conflicts on the news or learn about them in history books, we often do not hear of the real experiences of the men and women who serve. It is their stories, often recorded in letters home, which tell an important story. It is their voices that can help us to understand the implications of war more fully. As responsible citizens we must listen to their stories to help us to make informed decisions about whether or not to go to war. These soldiers, these men, and women, are our family members, neighbours, community members, and their service and sacrifices affect us all.

On May 17th, 2006, in the Panjwa'i district of Afghanistan, Canadian Army Captain Nichola Goddard made many "firsts": the first female Canadian combat soldier to lead Canadian soldiers into combat and the first artillery officer to call in support fire on an enemy since the Korean War, she was tragically the first Canadian female combat soldier lost to enemy fire - all in the same battle. Women have been participating in war since war began; however, their stories are often overlooked or over shadowed by those of the men. Just like the brave male soldiers who have risked life and limb to serve their countries, so to have women. This unit will help us to bring their experiences to life; to hear their stories.



Objectives:

Our Intention is to educate Canadian Citizens so that they:

- » *Appreciate the role of our military heritage in protecting Canadian interests, values and beliefs.*
- » *Understand the role our military history has had in shaping our country and the world.*
- » *Are inspired to be engaged and well-informed participatory citizens of Canada.*

Intended Student Body:
Middle School/Junior High
(Grades 5-9)

** Activity can be easily modified for high school*

LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY

Students' task at the end of this unit is to write a letter. It can be to, or from, a woman fighting in (or otherwise affected by) war. There will be four assignments along the way to help students build their understanding before they begin the writing process. The assignments are:

1. Pictures of Women in War
2. Women in the Infantry: A debate
3. Captain Nichola Goddard: A Case Study
4. Letters To Or From A Female Soldier

Note: In previous years, Valour Canada has hosted a culminating field trip to The Military Museums in Calgary for local students who have undertaken this program in their classes. The field trip included a presentation from a female veteran, a museum tour and dramatic readings of the best letters from assignment four of this unit. Valour Canada is no longer running these culminating events but encourages teachers to take a field trip to a local museum or host a similar culminating event of their own at their school.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: (included in this package)

Activity 1: Pictures of Women in War

- Printed pictures of Women in War images
- Pictures of Women in War Activity Sheet

Activity 2: Women in the Infantry: A Debate

- 4 Pieces poster/chart paper and markers
- Readings

Activity 3: Captain Nichola Goddard: A Case Study

- Nichola Goddard video clips (on YouTube)

Activity 4: Letters To or From a Female Soldier

- Letters To or From a Female Soldier Activity sheet

