

MONUMENTAL CANADIANS LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

PRIVATE THOMAS RILEY



NAME: Pte. Thomas Riley

BORN: January 3, 1898 (Calgary)

DECEASED: October 26, 1917
(Passchendaele)

EPIC BATTLE: Passchendaele

RANK: Private

HONOURS:

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will:
 - Research and share information about trench warfare in the First World War (FWW) by engaging in a jigsaw activity

ACTIVITIES:

- Watch the 4.5-minute Valour Canada video clip about Pte. Thomas Riley
- As a class decide which five questions below would be most important to answer to understand trench warfare. Encourage students to add questions to this list.
 - What is the significance of the Battle of Passchendaele?
 - Why is the Battle of Passchendaele remembered today?
 - How and why does the FWW become stalemated in muddy trenches?
 - What are the root causes of trench warfare?
 - Why were most battles in the FWW fought in trenches? Why were most battles in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts not fought in trenches?
 - How did trench warfare evolve as the war continued?
 - How did trench warfare affect the outcome of the War?
 - How did trench warfare impact the soldiers fighting in the FWW?
 - Why did commanders in the FWW choose to send soldiers into battle knowing that the costs in human lives were so massive? How did commanders make attempts to minimize waste and suffering?
 - Why did nations keep sending their soldiers to fight in such awful conditions? Should they have continued to fight given the cost in lives, money, and environmental damage?
- Number the five questions then create groups of five students. Ask them to each pick a different question and research it online for ~30 minutes starting with the following website resource:
<http://vimyridge.valourcanada.ca/the-road-to-vimy-ridge/gearing-up/tunnels-and-trenches/>
- Have students each present their research findings and answer their assigned question to their group members. Consider then asking all the students who answered a certain numbered question to move to another group and reshare their information. Repeat this last step as many times as you'd like.

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.*

Historical Era:

First World War (1914-1918)

Intended Student Body:

Grades 8 – 12

** Activity can easily be modified for most grades and ability levels.*

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Thomas Riley video clip:
<http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/pte-thomas-riley/>
(4.5-minutes)
- Trench warfare info website:
<http://vimyridge.valourcanada.ca/the-road-to-vimy-ridge/gearing-up/tunnels-and-trenches/>