

## LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### First World War 20 Questions Lesson Plan

#### ACTIVITY

- Use the question cards below to:
  - Engage learners and invite further learning
  - Formatively assess student familiarity with Canada's experience in the First World War
  - Spark debate and discussion
  - Guide research and inquiry-based learning
- Relevant video and text resources:
  - Forgotten Fallen (29 minutes)
    - <http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/forgotten-fallen-soldats-oublis/>
  - General Sir Arthur Currie (4 minutes)
    - <http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/general-sir-arthur-currie-gcmb-kcb/>
  - Road to Vimy Ridge: Canada and the First World War
    - <http://vimyridge.valourcanada.ca/>

#### 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:

Second World War (1939-1944)

Intended Student Body  
Grades 10-12



#### RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Question cards (below)
- Recommended documentaries and website (optional)

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

### Why is the Battle of Vimy Ridge significant to Canadians?

- Because it was the first battle in which all four divisions of the Canadian Army fought together
- Because it helped Canadians to earn a reputation as world class warriors
- It granted Canada a seat at the table during peace negotiations after the War
- All of the above

#### Research/Discussion Questions:

- Which criteria could be used to determine whether an event is historically significant or not?
- Is the prominence of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in the public mind justified?

1

Answer: D

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

### Why was Canada automatically at war when Britain declared war in 1914?

- Because Canada wasn't populous enough to be legally considered a country
- Because Canada was a self-governing dominion of Britain that did not have independent control of foreign affairs
- Because Canada was already at war with Germany and Austria-Hungary
- Because Canada and Britain were close allies

#### Research/Discussion Questions:

- What reasons did Canada have for going to war? What reasons did opponents of the war have for not wanting to go to war?
- If you had been alive at the time, would you have supported Canada going to war? With the benefit of hindsight, did Canada make the right decision?

2

Answer: B

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: ••

### What event sparked the First World War?

- The assassination of the Archduke of Austria-Hungary
- Simmering nationalism across Europe during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Serbia's refusal of the ultimatum from Austria-Hungary
- The invention of the Dreadnought and the arms race between Britain and Germany

#### Research/Discussion Questions:

- How did underlying causes like militarism, alliances, industrialization, and nationalism contribute to the First World War?
- Who were the key human agents in the beginning of the First World War and how did their actions impact the flow of events during this period in history?

3

Answer: A

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

### What was the Black Hand?

- A secret Serbian nationalist movement behind the assassination of the Archduke of Austria-Hungary
- Dragutin Dimitrijević, who helped organize the assassination of the Archduke of Austria-Hungary
- A group of militaristic Prussian generals who offered unquestioning support to Austria-Hungary
- Belgian guerilla forces who sabotaged infrastructure and fought against a German invasion

#### Research/Discussion Questions:

- What role did the Black Hand play in the history of the First World War? Do you think the War would have started without its existence?
- Were the actions of the Black Hand justified?

4

Answer: A

<p><b>First World War 20 Questions</b></p> <p>Difficulty rating: ••</p> <p><b>Which country gave Austria-Hungary a “blank cheque” offering unquestioning and unlimited support in the case of war?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serbia</li> <li>Germany</li> <li>Russia</li> <li>Italy</li> </ol> <p><b>Research/Discussion Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who do you think (individuals or nations) is at fault for causing the First World War?</li> <li>Explore the motivations of the major European nations for getting involved in the First World War.</li> </ul> <p><b>5</b> <span style="float: right;">Answer: B</span></p>	<p><b>First World War 20 Questions</b></p> <p>Difficulty rating: •••</p> <p><b>Why did Britain get involved in a conflict that was initially between Austria-Hungary and Serbia?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because Britain immediately realized how serious the conflict would be</li> <li>Because Russia mobilized quickly, and Britain felt it had to support Russia in any coming conflict</li> <li>Because Belgium was an ally of Britain and Germany invaded France through Belgium, committing atrocities along the way</li> <li>Because Austria-Hungary and Serbia were both allied with Britain</li> </ol> <p><b>Research/Discussion Question:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was Britain’s involvement in the Second World War ethical? What other motivating factors did Britain have?</li> <li>What was the impact of Britain’s entrance into the War?</li> </ul> <p><b>6</b> <span style="float: right;">Answer: C</span></p>
<p><b>First World War 20 Questions</b></p> <p>Difficulty rating: •••</p> <p><b>Why did Germany end up fighting a war on two fronts?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because the Schlieffen Plan neglected to consider the impact of weather</li> <li>Because their alliance with the French quickly unraveled</li> <li>Because they are located in central Europe and must secure all borders at the same time</li> <li>Because Russia mobilized more quickly than expected and the Belgians slowed the German attack by sabotaging infrastructure</li> </ol> <p><b>Research/Discussion Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was the Schlieffen Plan a success or failure? What went wrong? What went right?</li> </ul> <p><b>7</b> <span style="float: right;">Answer: D</span></p>	<p><b>First World War 20 Questions</b></p> <p>Difficulty rating: •••</p> <p><b>How many ships did the Canadian Navy have at the beginning and end of the First World War?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>102; 197</li> <li>2; 112</li> <li>45; 72</li> <li>234; 16</li> </ol> <p><b>Research/Discussion Question:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How and why did this dramatic change in the size of the Canadian Navy happen?</li> <li>What role did the Canadian Navy play in the First World War?</li> </ul> <p><b>8</b> <span style="float: right;">Answer: B</span></p>

**First World War 20 Questions**

Difficulty rating: •

**What happened to Canadians at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres in 1915?**

- They encountered the yellow-green haze of poisonous chlorine gas that was released by the enemy
- Soldiers covered their faces with urine-soaked handkerchiefs to protect themselves from the gas attack
- They held the line against great odds so that the Ypres salient held strong, protecting the seaports along the English Channel
- All of the above

**Research/Discussion Questions:**

- Why is the use of poison gas considered a war crime?
- Do you think it was ethical for opposing sides to use gas during the First World War?

**9** Answer: D

**First World War 20 Questions**

Difficulty rating: •••

**How many soldiers died at the Battle of the Somme?**

- 1.2 million, including 24,000 Canadians, 25% of Canada's total fighting force
- ~100,000, including 175 Canadians, 5% of Canada's total fighting force
- 157, all Canadian, 5% of Canada's total fighting force
- 500,000, including 20,000 Canadians, 20% of Canada's total fighting force

**Research/Discussion Question:**

- What significant event, happened at Beaumont-Hamel, one battle during the Battle of the Somme?

**10** Answer: A

**First World War 20 Questions**

Difficulty rating: •••

**Why was the Battle of Flers-Courcelette significant?**

- It was the first battle with no Canadian casualties
- It was the first use of a tank in battle
- It was the first time Americans fought in the First World War
- It was the first time more prisoners were taken than soldiers killed

**Research/Discussion Question:**

- What impact did the use of tanks have during the First World War?
- What impact would tanks have in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts?

**11** Answer: B

**First World War 20 Questions**

Difficulty rating: ••

**What role(s) did the airplane, a new invention, play during the First World War?**

- Reconnaissance
- Directing artillery fire
- Battling directly with other airplanes (dogfights)
- All of the above

**Research/Discussion Questions:**

- List and rank in terms of importance the technology that was invented during the First World War.
- Is the world a better or worse place as a result of the technology invented during the First World War?

**12** Answer: D

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: ••

**Who was Commander of the Canadian Corps at the Battle of Vimy Ridge?**

- a. Julian Byng
- b. Arthur Currie
- c. Herbert Kitchener
- d. Douglas Haig

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- Why do many people believe that First World War Generals were 'donkeys leading lions' (their soldiers)? Is this true?
- Who was the top Canadian commander during the First World War? What would his supporters say about him and why? What would his detractors say about him and why?

13

Answer: A

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: ••

**How did Canadians practice for the Battle of Vimy Ridge?**

- a. Practicing visualization techniques
- b. Using a scale model replica of the battlefield
- c. By fighting on the Eastern Front
- d. Doing drills at Camp Borden

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- What did the Canadians do differently at Vimy Ridge that the British and French who were there before them didn't do?
- Why were the Canadians successful at the Battle of Vimy Ridge?

14

Answer: B

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

**A trench raid is when a varied number of soldiers cross no man's land to enter enemy trenches with the intention of taking prisoners, obtaining weapons and trophies, gathering intelligence, or sabotaging enemy defences. How many times did Canadians engage in trench raids during their time at Vimy Ridge?**

- a. 300
- b. 2
- c. 29
- d. 12

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- What are trenches? Why were trenches a feature of the First World War and not in the Second World War?
- Trench raids often cost lives. Do you think trench raids were justified?

15

Answer: C

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

**Why did German soldiers refer to the week before the Battle of Vimy Ridge as the Week of Suffering?**

- a. Because more than a million shells were fired at German lines
- b. Because that was the week they ran out of food and supplies
- c. Because the weather was miserable
- d. Because German command allowed no contact with family

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- What was daily life like while soldiers were in the trenches?
- Generally, how did the conditions faced by Canadian soldiers at Vimy Ridge compare to the conditions faced by the Germans?

16

Answer: A

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: • •

**What was one of the results of the Military Service Act, which allowed for conscription, or mandatory military service, in 1917?**

- It caused division on the home front along linguistic lines, with Anglophones generally in favour of the Act and Francophones generally not
- It led to the conscription of all men and women between the ages of 18 and 35
- It forced the government to censor major newspapers
- All of the above

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- Who generally supported conscription in 1917 and why?
- Was conscription helpful to the war effort? Why or why not?

17

Answer: A

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: • •

**Which of the following medical advances were invented during the First World War in order to deal with its carnage?**

- Chemotherapy, laser eye surgery, spinal taps
- Portable x-ray machines, better quality prostheses, plastic surgery
- Blood banks, the use of leeches, blood letting
- Anesthetic, physiotherapy, psychotherapy

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- How did medical advances impact injured soldiers and their lives after the war?
- Do you think soldiers were given adequate support when they returned to Canada after the First World War?

18

Answers: B

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: • •

**Who were the 'Bluebirds'?**

- Canadian nursing sisters
- Members of the Air Force who wore blue uniforms
- Soldiers who were on leave in Britain
- American soldiers

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- What roles did women play during the First World War?
- How did women's roles in society change as a result of the First World War?

19

Answer: A

## First World War 20 Questions

Difficulty rating: • • •

**Why are tanks (i.e., weaponized armoured vehicles) called tanks?**

- Because they are heavy and slow
- Because they hold a crew of people
- It is an acronym that stands for Transport and New Kill zone
- Because during development they were referred to as water tanks for the sake of secrecy

### Research/Discussion Questions:

- Why was warfare so different in the First World War compared to previous conflicts?
- How did industrialization impact the First World War?

20

Answer: D