

LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

D-Day 20 Questions Lesson Plan

ACTIVITY

- Use the question cards below to:
 - Engage learners and invite further learning
 - Formatively assess student familiarity with D-Day
 - Spark debate and discussion
 - Guide research and inquiry-based learning
- Relevant video resources:
 - D-Day Footage of Juno Beach (2m:08)
 - <https://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/d-day-footage-of-juno-beach/>
 - D-Day Series: RCN and Operation Neptune (16m:16)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S84TOxkrI9g>
 - D-Day June 6, 1944 (10m:06)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWcOMC6czH8>



Intended Student Body:
Grade 10 - 12

<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>What do the terms D-Day and H-Hour refer to?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The invasion of Germany with attacks starting on the hour, every hour The date and time the invasion will happen, without giving away any specific information for security reasons Allied attacks taking place during daylight hours All of the above <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is security and secrecy of utmost importance when planning an attack or invasion? What sorts of measures were taken during the Second World War to ensure secrecy surrounding battles? <p>1 Answer: B</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>How did paratroopers find each other after being dropped over a wide area on the cloudy, dark night of June 6th, 1944?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By imitating owl hoots By using walkie-talkies By using a clicker toy that sounded like a cricket By wearing glow in the dark vests so they could easily be seen <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What function did paratroopers play on D-Day? What factors made the job of paratroopers difficult on D-Day? What factors contributed to their success? <p>2 Answer: C</p>
<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • • •</p> <p>Why were burlap dummies resembling paratroopers (known as “Ruperts”) dropped along with real paratroopers on D-Day?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To test the weather conditions before real paratroopers jumped To make it appear that more soldiers were being dropped than there actually were To get rid of extra parachutes being stored in England To give the paratroopers confidence and strength in numbers during the drop behind enemy lines <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How else was deception used during the War by both the Allied and Axis powers? Who do you think was best at using deception successfully during the War? Why? <p>3 Answer: B</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>Which of the following facts is incorrect?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Montgomery originally proposed that the British D-Day landing beaches, Gold and Sword, be codenamed ‘Goldfish’ and ‘Swordfish’ Montgomery originally suggested that Juno Beach, the Canadian D-Day landing beach, be codenamed ‘Jellyfish’ Winston Churchill considered the shortened form of ‘Jellyfish,’ ‘Jelly,’ to be inappropriate as a codename for a place where many men would lose their lives Canadian soldiers referred to their D-Day landing beach, Juno Beach, as ‘Ottawa’, the capital city of Canada <p>Research/Discussion Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did those in positions of authority seek to be respectful to those who made sacrifices for War and their families? Were they successful in doing so? <p>4 Answers: D</p>

<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: •••</p> <p>What are “Mulberries?”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-built pieces floated across the English Channel and then assembled into docks so that equipment could be unloaded from ships Berries picked wild in the fields of France used to feed Allied soldiers Grenades that are bumpy and look like a mulberry (similar to a raspberry) Special tanks used to cut down hedgerows in Normandy <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How were innovative solutions used to overcome difficulties during the War? What does this tell us about the nature of innovation? <p>5 Answer: A</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: ••</p> <p>Which of the following is NOT one of Hobart’s Funnies (modified tanks designed to do engineering tasks, named after Major General Percy Hobart) used during the Normandy Campaign?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Swimming Sherman – as amphibious tank that could float in water because of a canvas floatation screen The Crab Flail – a tank with spinning chains on the front of it used to clear land mines The Bobbin Carpet Layer – a tank made to lay down matting on a beach to allow heavy vehicles to drive over the sand The Rock Carrier – a tank that carries rocks to fill ditches to make them passable <p>Research/Discussion Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List, then rank the usefulness of Hobart’s funnies for overcoming the obstacles soldiers faced in Normandy. <p>6 Answer: D, but there was a tank called the Fascine Carrier which carried bundles of sticks to fill ditches.</p>
<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: •••</p> <p>The Atlantic Wall, a line of defences and fortifications to protect German-occupied France from invasion, was made up of a variety of components including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Czech Hedgehogs, Rommel’s asparagus, casemates, and flooded fields Dutch Hedgehogs, batteries, human chains, and minefields Forested areas, obstacle courses, weaponry, and ropes Lookouts, tank line-ups, bunkers, and fences <p>Research/Discussion Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What issues arise when static defences are overcome by an opposing force? When else has this happened in 20th century history? <p>7 Answer: A</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: ••</p> <p>Why was D-Day delayed by 24 hours?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Because of developments on the Eastern Front that made an invasion in the west less important Because weather made crossing the English Channel dangerous Because Eisenhower was still on holiday and the invasion couldn’t begin without him Because of concerns over the strength of the Atlantic Wall <p>Research/Discussion Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a timeline of events that occurred on D-Day. Which three events were most critical in the success of the mission? <p>8 Answer: B</p>

D-Day Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

Which of the following coincidences helped Allied forces be successful on D-Day?

- German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, the man in charge of the defence of Normandy, had left the region for his wife's birthday
- Assuming that an invasion could not occur during harsh weather, many German commanders were away from their posts
- Hitler slept in on D-Day and his aides were afraid to wake him. Because of the chain of command in the German Armed Forces, little could be done without his approval
- All of the above

Research/Discussion Questions:

- How did the command structure in the German Armed Forces contribute to Allied success on D-Day?
- What went right for the Allies on D-Day? What went wrong?

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Answer: D

D-Day Questions

Difficulty rating: ••

What is one reason the Germans did not accurately forecast that there was to be a break in the stormy weather on D-Day, allowing the Allies to invade France?

- The German weather station "Kurt" which had been set up by a U-boat crew in Labrador, Newfoundland in 1943 to help gather meteorological data was defunct
- German weather forecasters were unable to process the data from their computers because of a bombing raid in Germany
- German weather balloons had been shot down over the Atlantic in preparation for D-Day
- German meteorologists were using faulty data in their predictions because the weather station installed in Newfoundland was sabotaged by Canadian troops

Research/Discussion Questions:

- What direct attacks on Canada by enemy forces occurred during the Second World War?

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Answer: A

D-Day Questions

Difficulty rating: ••

Why were the Germans convinced that an attack would be coming at Calais instead of at Normandy, where the D-Day invasion actually took place?

- Because the port at Calais is the shortest distance from Britain
- Because the Allies created an elaborate ruse across the channel from Calais involving inflatable rubber tanks, and fake landing crafts, mess halls, tent cities, and a wooden fuel depot
- Because the Allies broadcast fake radio chatter about troop movements in the area across the channel from Calais and used double agents to spread false information to German intelligence agencies
- All of the above

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Answer: D

D-Day Questions

Difficulty rating: •••

How many soldiers landed or parachuted in Normandy on June 6th, 1944?

- 150,000, 14,000 of them were Canadian
- 1,500, 140 of them were Canadian
- 15,000, 1,400 of them were Canadian
- 1,500,000, 140,000 of them were Canadian

Research/Discussion Question:

- Compare statistics and functions of the Canadian army, navy, and air force. If you had to choose, which force would you most and least want to be a part of and why?

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Answer: A

<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>The Allied armada (fleet of warships) on D-Day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Was codenamed Operation Neptune Was the largest invasion by sea in history Was made up of ~7000 vessels All of the above <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which Canadian ship active within the month surrounding D-Day was the most successful and/or played the most important role? Which pieces of evidence support your claim? Which historical armada should be given the title of 'greatest armada ever' and why? <p>13 Answer: D</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>“PLUTO” refers to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The codename used by Canadian and American forces for the airborne landings on D-Day The cipher for the enigma machine The fuel pipeline under the English Channel that fueled the troop advance after landing successfully at Normandy The protected landing under Tension Order, a command issued by Churchill to support troops during the beach landings <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was PLUTO vital to the Battle of Normandy? <p>14 Answer: C</p>
<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • • •</p> <p>Which of the following statements is true?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 359 Canadian soldiers were killed on D-Day More than 5,000 Canadians were killed in the Battle of Normandy More than 13,000 Canadians were injured in the Battle of Normandy All of the above <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think the heavy casualties were worth the gains made during the Battle of Normandy? What measures may have saved more lives during D-Day and the Battle of Normandy? <p>15 Answer: D</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • • • •</p> <p>Shooting prisoners of war contravenes the Geneva Convention and is considered an atrocity. Under the command of Kurt Meyer, 12th SS Division, how many Canadian prisoners of war were shot during the Battle of Normandy?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> None Fewer than 16 As many as 156 Approximately 2,000 <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the experience of a POW (Prisoner of war) during the Second World War. Compare and contrast the experience of a POW held in Canada versus the experience of a POW held in Germany. <p>16 Answers: C</p>

<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>Canadian soldiers encountered members of the elite 12th SS Panzer Division “Hitlerjugend” on their way to capturing the city of Caen. Some of the soldiers were as young as 15 years old. What made this force a difficult opponent?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The soldiers had been indoctrinated throughout childhood and were strongly motivated by Nazi ideology The soldiers were young and therefore very fast The division was battle-hardened from years on the front lines of the War The soldiers were well rested because they were new to battle <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What tenets of Nazi ideology do you consider particularly harmful and why? What was the Hitlerjugend and what impact did it have on German society? <p>17 Answer: A</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>Why was it important for the D-Day landings to happen during mid-tide?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> So that soldiers had moonlight during very early morning operations So that they could see most of the German-placed obstacles in the water, and so that they wouldn’t have as much beach to cross on foot So that there were no beached animals or tide pools in the way of the landings All of the above <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What natural and man-made factors need to be considered in the planning of any battle? What factors made D-Day logistically very difficult to plan? <p>18 Answer: B</p>
<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • •</p> <p>The majority of troops who landed on D-Day were from Britain, Canada, and America. Which other Allied nations took part in D-Day and the Battle of Normandy?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Poland Italy, Switzerland, Honduras, Liberia, Paraguay, Syria, and Guatemala Hungary, the USSR, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Ethiopia, Bolivia, and Lebanon The USSR, China, India, South Africa, Norway, Mexico, Philippines, and Luxembourg <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose an Allied or Axis nation and determine why it fought on the side that it did. Do you think this nation chose in its own best interest or in the best interests of others? <p>19 Answer: A</p>	<p>D-Day Questions</p> <p>Difficulty rating: • • •</p> <p>Why were the D-Day landings important?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The landings opened another front, which alleviated some of the pressure on the USSR The landings allowed for a foothold in northern Europe that could expand and facilitate a push towards Germany The landings helped to free France from Nazi occupation All of the above <p>Research/Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the causes that made the D-Day landings an important event in the War and their consequences. <p>20 Answer: D</p>