



A NATION TAKES SHAPE

CANADA

AND THE

FIRST WORLD WAR



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Introduction

It is often said that geography is the place where history happens. However, as a high school geography and history teacher, I can tell you that the two disciplines are often taught independently of one another. With this in mind, Canadian Geographic Education is proud to offer teachers a set of learning inquiries for Grades 7 to 12 that uses a geographic lens to guide their students' exploration of the Canadian social landscape before, during and after the First World War.

Throughout these ten inquiries, students will use the tools of geography (maps, statistics), as well as geographic thinking skills (patterns and trends, interactions and association, etc.), to explore Canada's evolution during this pivotal period in our nation's history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Connie Wyatt Anderson".

Connie Wyatt Anderson,
Chair, Canadian Geographic Education

Download CG Education's first tiled map,
A Nation Takes Shape: Canada and the First World War:
education.canadiangeographic.ca



Educational Inquiries

Pre-War Canada

Students will learn about Canada's demographic trends in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Students will use the tiled map to highlight key Canadian cities and monitor their growth from 1851 to 1921.

Mobilization

Students will learn how Canada's attitude towards the First World War assisted in preparing the nation to fight. Students will use the tiled map to explore enlistment patterns, connecting them to Canada's demographic at the start of the war.

Internment

Students will learn about the response to the rising fears Canadians had about certain immigrant groups. Students will learn about enemy aliens and use the tiled map to locate major internment camps in Canada.

The Halifax Explosion

Students will learn about the Halifax Explosion that happened on December 6, 1917. Students will use the tiled map to investigate Halifax as a wartime hub and compare it to other Canadian cities during the First World War.

Stalemate

Students will learn about trench warfare and of the victories and defeats for Canadian troops during the First World War. Students will practice their mapping skills by using the map's scale to determine how Canada's landscape would have changed if trench warfare occurred at home.

Canadian Women and the First World War

Students will learn about the many roles played by women in the First World War and how their status in Canada changed during the war. Students will use the tiled map to explore how women's roles varied across Canada.

Transportation

Students will learn about the various modes of transportation used during the First World War and how they contributed to Canada's preparation for war. Students will use the tiled map to highlight Canada's growing railway system, aircraft training schools and ports.

Canadians in Battle

Students will learn about Vimy Ridge and gain a greater understanding of combat in the First World War and the measures taken to train soldiers. Students will use the tiled map to learn about Canadian soldiers' journey to war.

The Conscription Crisis

Students will learn about conscription and its effect on Canadian politics and society during 1917. Students will use the tiled map to examine the provincial results from the 1917 election, making connections to English and French Canada. Students will hold a mock election to gain an understanding of the different types of people who could and could not vote.

Memorialization

Students will examine the many ways the First World War is remembered in Canada and overseas. Students will use the tiled map to highlight some of Canada's most famous monuments, connecting the monuments' location to the role this location played during the First World War.



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