

Historica Canada Education Portal

Fighting the First World War

Overview

This lesson will introduce students the following issues and questions:

1. Why was the war so brutal?
2. Why did Canadians want to fight?
3. Literature during the First World War
4. Was the war a needless or necessary sacrifice?

Aims

To make students think about the issues that face soldiers and officers during the war. Students will be encouraged to examine the content from a contemporary perspective instead of their own post-modern perspective.

Background

The background is established in the notes [see [attachment](#)]. Essentially, this lesson aims to answer pertinent questions about the fighting and brutality of the war and how it is remembered. The lesson seeks to challenge perceived notions about the war.

Activities

Time Allowance: 1 Class [1 hour 15 minutes]

Procedures:

1. Discussion Questions:

Was the First World War justified?

Was the First World War a needless sacrifice of men by Generals?

Why was the war so bloody?

Why did men continue to fight?

2. Go through the Notes to answer and address these questions.

3. Re-visit the questions and discuss further.

Evaluation:

Make sure you are marking or are aware of student participation.

Required Materials:

The notes [see [attached](#)] and whatever else one can bring to the lesson.

Resources

[See Attached Notes and Bibliography](#)

[The Memory Project](#)

[The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)