

**An ABC
of
Canada At War
(1914-18)**

**By
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AN ABC OF CANADA IN WORLD WAR I

A for **AUSTRIA-HUNGARY**, who was dealt a Black Hand.

B is for **BRITAIN**. Declares war to save Belgium, y'understand?

C is for **CANADA**, now in the fight.

D for the **DREADNOUGHTS**, ships of great might.

E is for **EMPIRES**, for dominance they vied.

F for the **FRENCH**, with Britain and Russia, allied.

G is for **GERMANY**, that followed the Schlieffen plan.

H for the **HEROISM**, of every woman and man.

I is for **INDUSTRY** manufacturing materials of war.

J for the **JOURNALISTS** who wrote about what they saw.

K is for the **KAISER**, who had imperial plans.

L for the **LAND** they called, 'No-man's.'

M is for **MEDALS**, the Victoria Cross for deeds brave.

N for **NOVEMBER 11TH**, the front, silent as the grave.

O for "**OVER THE TOP**," the bullets kill and maim.

P for the **POISON**, in great clouds of gas it came.

Q for **QUEBEC** a Conscription crisis to confront.

R for **REMEMBRANCE** of those who died at the front.

S is for **SARAJEVO**, the road to war, here, began.

T for the **TRENCHES**, home to every fighting man.

U is for the **U-BOATS**, German terror at sea.

V for **VIMY RIDGE** a great Canadian victory.

W is for **WAR ACES**, Billy Bishop and Roy Brown.

X in **EXPECTATIONS** of being shot down.

Y for the **YOUTH**. Millions would die.

Z for the **ZEPPELINS** roaming the sky.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

A is for **AUSTRIA-HUNGARY**
who were dealt a **Black-Hand**.

W5

What was Austria-Hungary?

When was it founded?

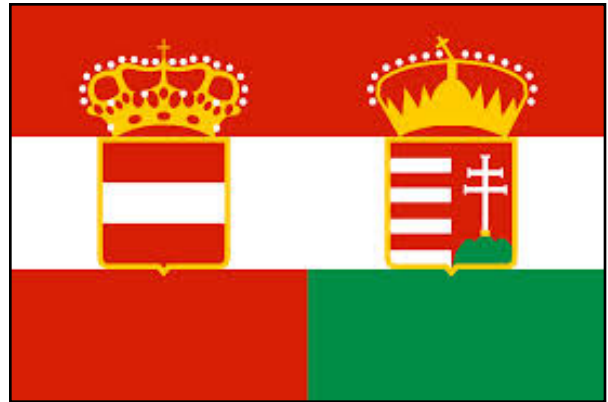
Who was the Emperor?

Where was it located?

What was strategic in its location?

Why was it important?

What was the 'Black-Hand'?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE.

- **Research the establishment of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.**
- **Research the Emperors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.**
- **Research the origins of the Black-Hand and explain what they wanted.**
- **Research and present a report on the ethnic mosaic of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.**
- **Research and report on the Allies of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

B is for **BRITAIN**

**declares war to save Belgium,
y’understand?**

W5

What country attacked Belgium?

When was Belgium attacked?

Why was Belgium attacked?

Where were the main attacks?

What was the reason for Britain’s
decision to “save” Belgium?

Who was Britain’s Prime Minister?

What was the “mood” of the British to the
declaration of war?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- **Research and report on the strategic importance of Belgium to Britain and to Germany.**
- **Research and report on how Belgium reacted to the German invasion.**
- **Research and report on the process through which Britain declared war on Germany.**
- **Research and report on the popular newspaper reports of the decision to Britain’s declaration - in Britain, Germany, Belgium and Canada.**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

C is for CANADA

now in the fight.

W5

When did Canada declare war on Germany?

Why did Canada declare war?

What was the reason for the declaration?

Where was the declaration made?

Who was the Prime Minister of Canada?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- **Research and report on the overall reaction of Canadians to the declaration of War on Germany.**
- **Research and report on the impact of the declaration on Canadian-German communities.**
- **Research and report on the population of Canada in 1914 and the impact the declaration had on communities.**
- **Research and report on the state of Canada's Army in 1914?**
- **Research and report on the status of the Canadian Navy in 1914.**
- **Research and report on the reaction in Quebec to the declaration of war.**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

D for the **D**READNOUGHTS
ships of great might.

W5

What does the term Dreadnought mean?

Who built the first Dreadnought?

When was it built?

Where was it built?

Why was it built?

What did its construction initiate?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the construction of HMS Dreadnought.
- Research and report on why Britain considered it important to build Dreadnought class ships.
- Research and report on the impact the construction of this class of warship had on other naval powers such as Germany, France, Japan and the United States.
- Research and report on the innovations in warship construction that was called for in order to build the Dreadnought class.
- Research and report on the new skills a sailor needed to man the new types of warships that had started to become the backbone of the world's major Navies.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

E is for **EMPIRES**

for dominance they vied.

W5

What is meant by an Empire?

Why were they established?

When were they established?

Whose Empires were the largest?

Where were these Empires located?

Why did they cause friction in Europe?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on any one of the great empires in evidence in 1914.
- Research and report on the position of Canada in the British Empire.
- Research and report on the importance of naval power to the British Empire.
- Research and report on Empires that had little or no naval power.
- Research and report on Africa as a continent dominated by European Empires.
- Research and report on Japan as an evolving empire.
- Research and report on Germany's demands for an Empire, its "place in the sun."
- Research and report on the evolution of the United States and its "embryonic empire." Consider the Monroe Doctrine.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

F for the **F**RENCH

with Britain and Russia allied.

W5

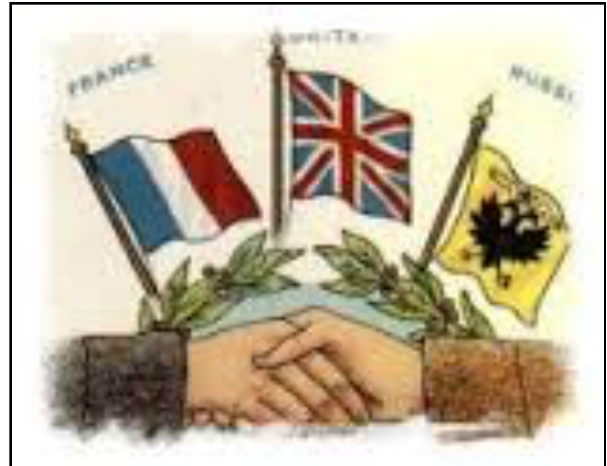
What name was given to this alliance?

When was it established?

Why was it established?

Who were the principal leaders of the countries in the alliance?

What name was given to the opposing alliance?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE.

- Research and report on the challenges each of these nations faced in becoming allied.
- Research and report on the military strengths of the members of the alliance.
- Research and report on the opposing alliances that were made prior to the outbreak of war.
- Research and report on the factors that influenced the evolution of the alliances.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

G is for **GERMANY**

that followed the Schlieffen plan.

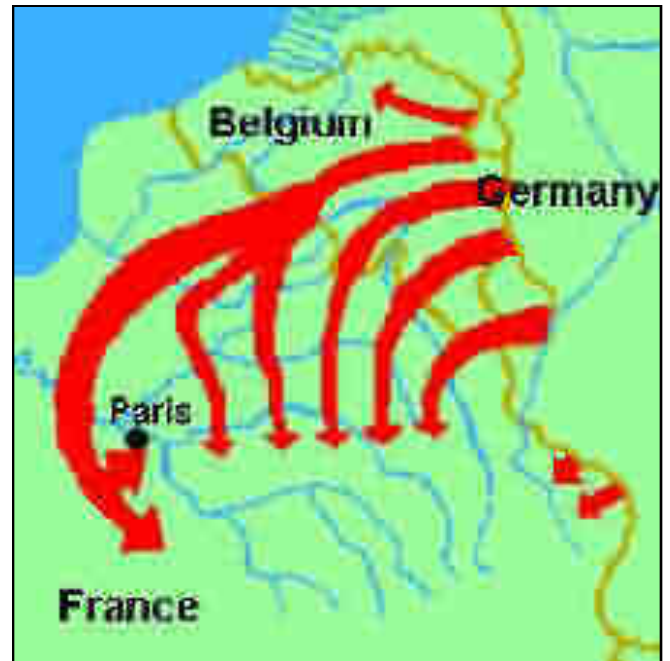
Who was Schlieffen?

What was the crux of his plan?

When was it to be initiated?

Where was it to be applied?

Why did it fail?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and profile Alfred Von Schlieffen.
- Research and report on the factors that made the plan acceptable to the German High Command.
- Research and report on Von Moltke.
- Research and report on how the French responded.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

H for the **H**EROISM
of every woman and man.

W5

Why can 'ordinary people' be considered heroes?

Who are considered 'ordinary people'?

What were the conditions under which they lived?

Where was the most danger place for civilians?

When did their suffering begin?



Research Assignment

- Choose ONE.
- Research and report on the challenges faced by the civilian populations in countries at war.
- Research and report on the efforts made by the combatant nations to cause civilian suffering.
- Research and report on the suffering of civilian populations that were in the immediate battle areas.
- Research and report on how governments addressed the issue of civilian suffering.
- Research and report on one particular act of heroism by a civilian or civilian group in any of the combatant countries .

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

I is for **I**NDUSTRY

manufacturing materials of war.

W5

What is meant by the term Materials of war?

Who was in charge of this aspect of the combatant nations?

Why were these industries important?

Where were they located?

When did they become involved with the war effort?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE.

- Research and report on the manufacturing of one weapon that became important to the infantry in WWI.
- Research and report on companies that became powerful as a result of their war time manufacturing.
- Research and report on the development of new weapons that were introduced to the battlefields of WWI.
- Research and report on the role of women in the manufacturing industry. Explain why they were so important.
- Research and report on newly manufactured armament that you feel was most important in WWI.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

J for the **J**OURNALISTS

who wrote about what they saw.

W5

Who sent the journalists to cover the battles?

Why were they sent?

What were the main sources of information for journalists?

Where did the journalists stay?

When did they first start regular reports?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE.

- Research and report on Canadian Newspaper reports from the front during WWI.
- Research and report on how the information was presented in the newspapers.
- Research and report on the importance of reporting was to the “people back home” in Canada.
- Research and report on the statement: “The first casualty of war is truth.”
- Research and report on the technology available to journalists during WWI.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

K is for **K**AISER

who had imperial plans.

W5

Who was the Kaiser?

What was his role?

Where did he reside?

When did he become Kaiser?

Why did he have “Imperial Plans?”



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the relationship the Kaiser had with the Tsar of Russia and the King of England.
- Research and report on how important the Kaiser was to the governance of Germany.
- Research and report on the efforts he made to secure ‘empire’ for Germany.
- Research and report on how he was perceived by the German people as the war dragged on.
- Research and report on what eventually happened to the Kaiser at the end of the war.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

L for the **L**AND
they called No-Man's.

W5

Who created the term, No-Man's land?

What did it mean?

Where was it located?

When was the term first used?

Why was it consider dangerous?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the extent of the region of a battlefield called no-man's land.
- Research and report on the game of soccer that was played in no-man's land by German and British troops on Christmas Day, 1914.
- Research and report on the dangers faced by troops when they crossed no-man's land.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

M for the **M**EDALS

Victoria Cross for deeds brave.

W5

Who established the Victoria Cross?

When was it established?

What made from?

Why was it made an award?

Where was it first presented?

Who is eligible for the award?



**Capt. Christopher O'Kelly of Winnipeg
won the VC at Passchendaele.**

Research Assignment

Chose ONE

- **Research and compile a list of all those WWI Canadians who were recipients of the Victoria Cross**
- **Research and profile one WWI Canadian recipient of the Victoria Cross.**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

N for **NOVEMBER 11TH**

the Front, silent as the grave.

W5

Who gave the orders to cease fire?

What was the reaction at the front?

Where did the troops go after the ceasefire?

When did the armistice (time) take place?

Why was it an armistice and not a surrender?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the reaction to the Armistice in Canada.
- Research and report on the reaction of soldiers to the Armistice.
- Research and report on the reaction to the Armistice in the other Allied nations of Britain, USA, France and other commonwealth countries.
- Research and report on the reaction to the Armistice in Germany.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

O for **O**VER THE TOP

the bullets kill and maim.

W5

Who went Over the Top?

What was the objective?

Where did this occur?

When was the order given?

Why was it so dangerous?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE.

- Research and report on Canadian action in which Canadian troops went ‘over the top.’
- Research and report on what it must have been like to be a soldier about to go over the top.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

P for the **P**oison
in great clouds of gas it came.

W5

Who first used poison gas in WWI?

What type of gas was used?

Where was it first used?

When was it first used?

Why was it used?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the decision to use poison gas on the battlefield.
- Research and report on the types of poison gas that were used.
- Research and report on the casualties from gas attacks and the injuries.
- Research and report on how medical services coped with the attacks.
- Research and report on how the allies were able to compete the gas attacks.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

Q for **Q**UEBEC

a conscription crisis to confront.

W5

Who was Canada's Prime Minister

at the time?

What was the main issue?

Where was the most resistance to conscription?

When did the issue first arise?

Why did Quebec resist conscription?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the main objections to conscription that were held in Quebec.
- Research and report on the challenge faced by the Canadian Prime Minister in addressing the issue.
- Research and report on Henri Bourassa and his role in the crisis.
- Research and report on the views of 'English-Canada' to the reaction of Quebec.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

R for **R**EMEMBRANCE
of those who died at the front.

W5

Who designated Remembrance Day?

What is the aim of Remembrance?

Where are ceremonies held?

When is Remembrance Day?

Why are ceremonies held in schools?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on Canada's Monument at Vimy Ridge, France.
- Research and report on the Remembrance Day ceremonies in your school.
- Research and report on the Remembrance Ceremony held in your community.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

S is for **SARAJEVO**

the road to war, here, began.

W5

Who fired the shots at Sarajevo?

What group was involved?

Where is Sarajevo?

When did the incident take place?

Why did this action lead to world war?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the incident that occurred in Sarajevo.
- Research and report on Gavrilo Princip.
- Research and report on the Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand.
- Research and report on how the assassination triggered the events that led to war.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

T for the **T**RENCHES

home to every fighting man.

W5

Who were the first to use trenches?

What was the function of the trench?

Where did the trench system extend?

Why were so many trenches constructed?

When were they first constructed?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and prepare a map to show the extent of the trench system as it evolved in WWI.
- Research and report on a soldier's life in a trench.
- Research and report on comparisons of trenches on both sides of the Front.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

U for the **U-Boats**

German terror at sea.

W5

Who was in command of the German U-boat fleet?

What is meant by U-boat?

Where was the Headquarters?

When did Germany first use their U-boats?

Why were they more important than the German surface fleet?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- **Research and report on the development of the U-boat as a new type of warship.**
- **Research and report on the British Royal Navy's response to the U-boat threat.**
- **Research and report on the impact of the German U-boats on the fledgling Royal Canadian Navy.**
- **Research and report on the sinking of the Lusitania by a U-boat and what impact it had on America's decision to declare war on Germany.**
- **Research and report on the total U-boat fleet, its successes and its losses - vessels and crews.**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

V for **V**IMY RIDGE
a great Canadian victory.

W5

Who commanded the Canadians at Vimy Ridge?

What was the objective?

Where is Vimy Ridge?

When was the battle?

Why was the Ridge so important?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the Canadian command structure before the assault on Vimy Ridge.
- Research and report on the first time that all of the Canadian Divisions fought together.
- Research and report on the role this assault had in the overall battle of Arras.
- Research and report on the use of special tunnels in preparation for the assault.
- Research and report on the outcome of the battle: achievements and casualties.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

W is for **W**AR **AC**ES

Billy Bishop and Roy Brown.

W5

Who were designated Aces?

What planes did they fly?

Where did they fly?

Why was their combat so dangerous?

When did they receive their title as an ace?



Billy Bishop

Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- **Research and report on Billy Bishop.**
- **Research and report on Roy Brown.**
- **Research and report on the planes used by the Canadians in WWI**
- **Research and report on the evolution of fighter tactics in WWI**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

X in **E****X**PECTATIONS

of being shot down.

W5

Who were most in danger of being shot down?

What was the average “life” of a fighter pilot?

Where did most of the air combat take place?

When were pilots most at risk?

Why did planes fly in groups?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the casualties suffered by the Allied air forces by year during WWI.
- Research and report on the percentage of pilots lost in combat each year of the war. Can you account for the changes in your findings?
- Research and report on the introduction of new planes (Technology) and armaments as this new branch of the military grew.

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

Y is for **YOUTH**

Millions would die.

W5

Who decided upon the age of those required to serve?

What was the average age of the Canadian enlistee?

Where did most of the recruits come from?

Why did they enlist?

When did they get shipped to France?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- **Research and report on the number of casualties suffered by the Canadian forces in WWI. Illustrate findings in the form of a graph.**
- **Research and report on the number of casualties suffered in WWI by each of the major combatant nations. Illustrate findings in the form of a graph**
- **Research and report on the percentage of killed and injured in action by nation. Illustrate your findings by graph.**

AN ABC OF CANADA IN WWI

Z for the **ZEPPELINS**
roaming the sky.

W5

Who was Zeppelin?

What was his machine?

Where was it used?

When was it used?

Why was it so fearful?



Research Assignment

Choose ONE

- Research and report on the invention of the German Count Ferdinand Zeppelin.
- Research and report on the first use of the Zeppelin in WWI.
- Research and report on the Zeppelin raids on London, England during WWI.
- Research and report on the methods used to combat the Zeppelins in WWI