KEY TERMS

- Nationalism
- Triple Alliance
- Triple Entente
- Militarism
- Balance of Power
- Allies
- Ypres
- Somme
- Vimy Ridge
- Passchendaele
- 100 Day Campaign
- Trench warfare
- War of Attrition
- Submarines
- "Enemy aliens"
- Propaganda
- Conscription
- Halifax Explosion
- Victory Bonds
- Rationing
- World Peace Conference
- Treaty of Versailles
- League of Nations
- Remembrance Day

KEY IDEAS

- Europe drags the world into a bloody and pointless war
  - New technologies and old war tactics leave 14 million people dead, 21 more physically or mentally "crippled"
- Canadian soldiers distinguish themselves at the battles of Ypres, Vimy Ridge, and Passchendaele = growth of the Canadian identity
- Conscription threatens to tear English and French Canada apart
- Prime Minister Robert Borden wins significant political independence for Canada

CAUSES OF WWI

1. Nationalism
2. Imperialism
3. Militarism
4. Alliances
**2 MAJOR ALLIANCES**

- **Triple Entente** (Allied Powers)
  - Britain
  - France
  - Russia

- **Triple Alliance** (Central Powers)
  - Germany
  - Austria-Hungary
  - Italy

**RESULT**

- Austria-Hungary (Triple Alliance A-H/G/I) declares war on Serbia who is backed by Russia (Triple Entente B/F/R) who mobilizes troops
- Germany then declares war on Russia
- France declares war on Germany
- Germany goes through Belgium to get to France
- England is upset with this and declares war
- The two alliances pull their countries into World War One

**REVIEW OF MOTIVES**

- Germany
  - Maybe we can win!
- Austria-Hungary
  - We want the Balkans!
- Russia
  - We want the Balkans!
- France
  - Loyalty = power
- Britain
  - Must crush Germany
HOW CANADA BECAME INVOLVED

• Britain still controlled the foreign policy of all its dominions
  • That means...when Britain declared war on Germany, Canada & the entire British Empire were automatically at war

• Most Anglophones were of British descent
  • Lots of national pride to fight for Britain!

CANADA’S ROLE IN WWI

• About 65,000 Canadians died in the First World War (1914-1918)
• Some were interred in Canada, but the vast majority lie buried abroad.

CONTRIBUTION ON LAND

• Canadian infantrymen were on the Western Front in January 1915 and in March the 1st Canadian Division took part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle.
• In April, Canadians fought in the Second Battle of Ypres, where they were subjected to the Germans’ first use of gas.
CONTRIBUTION ON LAND

• When the 2nd Division arrived in France, the Canadian Corps was formed, later expanded by the addition of the 3rd Division.
• From April to August 1916 the corps fought in the defense of Ypres, until it moved to fight in the Battle of the Somme.
• On 9th April 1917 it captured Vimy Ridge, which had withstood all attacks for two years.
• Though this victory cost the Canadian Corps 10,000 casualties, it was certainly a great military success, and ensured that Vimy Ridge would later be chosen as the site of Canada’s National Memorial.

CONTRIBUTION ON LAND

• Canadian soldiers met with success in August 1917, taking Hill 70, north of Arras.
• After being transferred to the Ypres front, the Canadians took the previously impregnable objective of Passchendaele on 6th November 1917 suffering 15,000 casualties in the process.
• In March 1918 cavalry and motorized machine-gun units of the Canadian Corps helped hold the line at Amiens, when the Germans launched their last big offensive.
• Then the Canadians formed the spearhead of the thrust between Hourges and Villers-Bretonneux, afterwards returning to the Arras area.

CONTRIBUTION ON LAND

• On 2nd September 1918, seven Canadians earned the Victoria Cross in exceptionally fierce fighting.
• The corps attacked across the Canal du Nord, forcing the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line, which was broken on the 27th of that month.
• On 9th October they took Cambrai. During the period between mid-August to mid October, the Canadians had suffered over 30,000 casualties killed, wounded, or captured.
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BATTLE OF YPRES

- April 1915
- Belgium (Flanders Fields)
- Germans used chlorine gas
  - Effects:
    - Blindness
    - Burning
    - Choking/suffocating to death
  - 6000 Canadians killed, wounded, or captured

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

- July 1916
- France
- General Douglas Haig, inexperienced in Trench warfare; used cavalry techniques
- Mowed down by machine guns
- First Tank battle
- 24,000 Canadians lost
- Newfoundland Regiment suffered 90% casualties
- Total loses 1.25 million

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

- April 1917
- Northern France (Close to Belgium)
- Precision attack led by British officer General Julian Byng
- Canadians won, gained more ground, taken more prisoners and captures more artillery than any previous British offensive
- 3,500 killed, 7,000 wounded
- This victory was a TURNING POINT in favour of the Allies
- The Canadian victory became a symbol of Canada's independence and nationhood
  - Recognized as some of the best troops on the Western Front
  - General Arthur Currie (Canadian) led the troops from then on
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELLE

- October 1917
- Belgium
- General Arthur Currie: Large and In Charge
- Allies won, but the victory cost over 15000 Canadian lives and 500000 total soldiers on both sides

CONTRIBUTION IN THE AIR

- As events soon proved, Canadians excelled in aerial combat.
- In providing many members of the Royal Flying Corps, the Royal Naval Air Service and later the Royal Air Force, Canada made a great contribution in this field.
- More than 23,000 Canadian airmen served with British Forces and over 1,500 died.
- The Commonwealth's highest scoring airman to survive the war was a Canadian: Lieutenant Colonel W.A. Bishop VC, with 72 victories.

CONTRIBUTION ON THE SEA

- Canadian naval participation in the 1914-1918 War was limited, as its newly formed navy possessed only two old cruisers.
- However, many thousands went to serve with the Royal Navy.
- Fleets of Canadian trawlers and small craft carried out mine-sweeping and anti-submarine operations in coastal waters.
TRENCH WARFARE

• Standard war tactic
  • Protected against enemy fire
  • Vulnerable to artillery (bomb) attacks
• Trenches were stinking cesspools, and often had rats
• Clothes would become infested with lice
• Trench foot – swollen black feet, amputation
• Seriously injured were left to die in "no man's land" between the 2 sides' trenches
• Many survivors were left in "shell shock" – uncontrollable shaking

NEW TECHNOLOGY

• 1914 new weapons developed:
  • machine guns, airplanes, armoured tanks
• Several British Commanders failed to understand new technology and their applications
• Therefore, their war strategy was the "War of Attrition", each side repeatedly attacked the other until exhausted and unable to continue.
  • Very ineffective strategy with this new technology
NEW TECHNOLOGY (CONT.)

• Germany used dirigibles
  • Inflated airships for scouting and bombing missions
  • British also used dirigibles

Giant dirigible guarding the British Coast

NEW TECHNOLOGY (CONT.)

• Bigger field guns and cannon
  • Germany’s “Big Bertha” artillery was capable of hitting targets 12 km away
  • These guns fired shells which weighed 520 kg each, filled with explosives and fragmentation objects

NEW TECHNOLOGY: TANKS

• Tanks
  • The British developed tanks to crush barbed wire and shelter
  • Soldiers followed wide line of tanks through “no man’s land”

WWI Mark IV Tank
NEW TECHNOLOGY: GAS

- Poison Gas
  - Germany was the first to use poisonous gas in the Battle of Ypres 1915
  - Chlorine - burned skin and lungs
  - Phosgene gas - caused suffocation
  - Mustard gas - burned skin
  - Easier to kill more people
  - Later, Anti-gas respirators were developed

NEW TECHNOLOGY: PLANES

- Planes
  - Fighter Planes
    - First, they were used to locate and photograph enemy positions
    - These photographs were then used to better attack enemy positions
    - Later, they were used for battle but they feared the machine guns would shoot their own propellers to pieces.
    - Each side attempted to design and perfect an interrupter device to time the machine guns to fire between the propeller blades

NEW TECHNOLOGY: SUBMARINES

- Submarines
  - Although US and Britain were responsible for submarine development Germany used U-boats more often
  - U-boats (under-sea boats) were equipped with torpedoes
  - In 1915, a U-boat sank the Lusitania, which was a British passenger liner killing about 1200 passengers.
  - Allies unable to retaliate at first, later developed a underwater listening device to locate and destroy U-boat
  - Not all ships were used for battles, merchant ships, would ferry munitions and supplies to Britain.
WAR MEASURES ACT
- PM Borden enacted almost immediately after war was declared
- Gave Federal Government more “control” over the country:
  - economy, security, transportation, trade, welfare etc.
  - Gives govt power to do everything for the “security, safety, peace, order” of the country
  - Undemocratic, yes, but in their eyes, justified during a time of war

EFFECTS OF THE WAR MEASURES ACT
- Civil liberties stripped:
  - Censorship
  - Mail censored
  - Habeas corpus suspended
    - The right to be brought in front of a judge to determine lawfulness of arrest
    - Police could arrest & detain anyone without reason!
  - If you were considered an “enemy alien” you could be imprisoned and/or deported
    - Recent German & Austro-Hungarian immigrants were targeted
    - 500,000 had to carry identity cards
    - 8,079 held in internment camps

CANADIAN ECONOMY WAS “BOOMING” BY 1916:
- As the war progressed trade with allied countries was skyrocketing. Canada shipped so much to Europe that we ran low on certain goods and prices increased.
  - Job creation (munitions factories)
  - Exports at all time high
    - Lumber, nickel, copper, lead, wheat, beef
  - Demand was high, so were the prices
    - Businesses making HUGE profits but...
THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN BIG TROUBLE

- The bodies kept falling and the costs kept climbing...
- Troops, armaments, training, feeding, etc. cost big $$$ = government in DEBT
- Solutions?
  - Loans
  - NEW! Income Tax
    - 3% of income for “well-off” individuals
    - 4% on business profits
  - Victory Bonds
    - Buy now, cash in later with interest!
    - Covered 80% of war costs but they also gave Canada a heavy national debt

PROPAGANDA: TOOL OF WAR

- When you have a war that is lasting years and killing millions of soldiers you need a way to control public dissent against the cause.
- Propaganda was (and is) an effective way to pressure the citizenship to continue supporting the effort.
- There are many different ways of creating emotion in propaganda, including:
  1. Convincing people they are not doing enough.
  2. Showing the enemy as inhumane and cruel.
  3. Putting pictures of the helpless who need us.
  4. Advertising ways we can help the cause.

SACRIFICE – THE WAY TO WIN A WAR

- Food Rations
- Waste Reduction
- Daylight Savings time introduced to save on energy consumption
- Fundraisers
THE "COSTS" OF WAR …

- The human cost of the war was even worse –
- PM Borden promised no conscription (compulsory enlistment for military service) but had to break it after Vimy Ridge
  - Borden promises to send another 500,000 troops overseas – we only had a population of 8 million, 1.5 million of which were men of military age
  - Introduced the Military Service Act 1917
  - French Canada (Québec) had lowest volunteer numbers
- No patriotic connection (no "our" war); riots break out in Montreal
  - Henri Bourassa (Québec nationalist) thought conscription would divide the nation further

THE CONSCRIPTION CRISIS

- Borden is losing political power so he forms a coalition with Liberals (Laurier still their leader) and calls an election
- Passes 2 laws beforehand to help his cause:
  - Military Voters Act (Allowed men and women overseas to vote in an election)
  - Wartimes Elections Act (Gave women directly related to servicemen the right to vote in Federal elections & took it away from new immigrants from enemy countries)
- Union government wins, but conscription still a problem, especially in Québec
  - Major protests, bloody riots (people shot & killed)
  - Only 25,000 conscripted soldiers reached France before the end of the war

CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN ON THE HOMEFRONT

- Increased production = increased labour jobs… but with so many men overseas…
- Women hired for:
  - Fishing
  - Farming
  - Manufacturing
  - Munitions Factories
- “Without the efforts of women on the home front, Canada’s wartime economy would have collapsed”
CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN ON THE HOMEFRONT

- Changing roles in politics...
  - Manitoba: First province to allow women the right to vote in provincial elections (1916)
  - Alberta, Saskatchewan followed
  - Ontario, then BC
- Universal suffrage in 1918 “in recognition of their patriotic effort during the war”

THE HALIFAX DISASTER

- December 6, 1917
- The Mont Blanc a French vessel carrying more than 2500 tons of dynamite was accidentally hit by another ship
- The explosion devastated Halifax’s harbour and much of the city
- 2000-3000 people were killed

THE CENTRAL POWERS COLLAPSE

- 1917:
  - U.S. declares war on Germany
  - Russia’s leader forced to abdicate and a provisional government came into power
  - Government was overthrown and signed a peace treaty with Germany; peace on Eastern Front
  - Battles ensued on the Western Front
THE CENTRAL POWERS COLLAPSE

- "Hundred Days": Final 3 months of the war
  - Canada’s offensives broke through German lines at Amiens – the most crucial battle of the war
    - Germans were exhausted; mentally, physically. Their defences crumbled; the stalemate of trench warfare was over
  - The four divisions of the Canadian troops defeated 47 German divisions.
  - The Canadians liberated an area containing more than 200 cities and towns. The end came very suddenly: The German Kaiser abdicated and fled
  - Armistice (Truce) signed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month (i.e. Remembrance Day)

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE: REVISED

"Canada entered the war a colony, she emerged from it close to an independent state"
- Historian Arthur Lower

Life goes on... forever changed

CONCLUSIONS
REVIEW OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

Is the student able to...
1. Explain the causes of WWI
2. Explain the reasons why Canada became involved in WWI
3. Describe Canada's military participation in WWI
4. Relate Canada's war losses to the nature of warfare
5. Explain the war's impact on the home front (think social, economical, political)

REVIEW ACTIVITY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Who were some of the Canadians significant to this topic? Who was impacted?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
<td>What was happening? What was the impact?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Any significant events related to this topic?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Why is it significant to Canada's history?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How?</td>
<td>How did this impact people?</td>
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