



Memorialization

Learning objectives

- Students will examine the many ways in which the First World War has been memorialized in Canada and overseas.
- Students will consider the tone of the monuments and other commemorative items to ascertain the intentions of each.

Time required
60-90 minutes

Grades
7-12

Materials

- tiled map: *A Nation Takes Shape*
- July/August 2014 issue of *Canadian Geographic*
- war memorial cards (Appendix 10)
- picture of war memorial from hometown (optional)

Set-up

Print and assemble the tiled map. Photocopy images from the July/ August 2014 issue of *Canadian Geographic* or prepare a projector to display them for the class. Cut up the war memorial cards to distribute to your students.

Links to Canadian National Standards for Geography

Essential element 1:

The world in spatial terms

- distribution of major human and physical features at country and global scales
- major countries of the world

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Introduction

Explain that by the end of the war, about 61,000 Canadians had been killed and another 172,000 were wounded. Countless others returned home with lasting psychological damage, referred to at the time as shell shock, now known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Poems and artwork would predict the dark and terrifying notion that warfare in the 20th century would only increase. Despite this, Canada was on the winning side of the war and memorials were created to celebrate or commemorate the contributions of the brave men and women.

Ask students to brainstorm ways in which the war is remembered in Canada. Encourage them to think about the cenotaph in their hometown and how every year on November 11, the First World War is remembered. Ask students to reflect upon any Remembrance Day ceremony they have participated in and brainstorm some of the symbols connected to war commemoration. Explain that nearly every community in Canada has a war memorial or cenotaph. Ask students why they think this is important and how these memorials have shaped towns.

Development

Distribute one war memorial card to each student. Have students read the information on the card and locate memorials throughout Canada dedicated to the First World War on the map.

Ask students to make any connections between the location of memorials and those of major First World War sites in Canada. For example, ask if there is a memorial that is dedicated to Canada's navy in a port town. Discuss what role a memorial's geographical location plays in understanding Canada in the First World War. Identify which provinces or towns have the most and least memorials. Discuss some of the patterns and trends that arise as students learn about some of Canada's famous memorials.

Have students choose one memorial they are interested in and research how it was designed, who created it and the overall message it conveys.

Conclusion

Examine how Canada is commemorated overseas by exploring the 13 First World War memorials highlighted in *Canadian Geographic's* July/August 2014 issue (page 59). Then, show students the picture of the Vimy Ridge memorial (page 57) and have them give their first impressions. Note that the Vimy memorial is depicted as triumphant. This huge memorial was expensive to create and is recognizable to Canadians everywhere.

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**Essential element 2:
Places and regions**

- actors that influence people’s perceptions of places and regions
- how culture affects places and regions
- how physical and human processes shape places and regions
- the importance of places and regions to individuals and social identity

**Essential element 6:
The uses of geography**

- effects of physical and human geographic factors on major historic events
- influence of geographical features on the evolution of significant historic events and movements

Ask students why it is important to commemorate Canadian soldiers outside Canada and how Canadian soldiers in the First World War influenced the geographical landscape outside Canada. Have students select and research one memorial highlighted on page 59 in *Canadian Geographic* and share their research with the class.

Extend your geographic thinking

The July/August 2014 issue of *Canadian Geographic* highlights ways the First World War shaped Canada. Using the tiled map of Canada as a base, have students work as a class to connect items mentioned in the magazine on the map.

This can be done in a collage format (cut out the images from the magazine), or it can be done using cue cards or sticky notes. Once students have identified all 100 ways on the map, have a discussion about what students have learned about the role Canada played in the First World War and how the War shaped the nation.



VIMY MEMORIAL BANDSHELL

Saskatoon, Sask.

Built to commemorate the battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

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WAR MEMORIAL OF MONTREAL WEST

Montreal, Que.

Honours those from Montreal West who died in the First World War.

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MONTREAL CLOCK TOWER

Montreal, Que.

Located in the old port of Montreal, this 45-metre tower commemorates Canadian sailors who died in the First World War.

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NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

St. John's, N.L.

This monument represents the war efforts of people from Newfoundland, which was not part of Confederation during the First and Second World Wars.

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VICTORY SQUARE CENOTAPH

Vancouver, B.C.

Located in Victory Square at the foot of the old courthouse where men signed up for the First World War.

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VALOUR ROAD

Winnipeg, Man.

Once called Pine Street, this road commemorates three young men who lived on the same block of the street and all served heroically in the First World War.

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CANADIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH

Vancouver, B.C.

A peace memorial showing Canadian unity during the First World War.

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CHANCEL WINDOW

Vancouver, B.C.

This stained glass window in the Canadian Memorial Church signifies the sacrifice of young men.

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Credit: Veterans Affairs Canada



NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL Ottawa, Ont.

10 Memorization

Unveiled in 1939, this memorial took 13 years to build. It was originally designed to commemorate the response of Canadians to the First World War, but dates for other wars have been added.



NURSING SISTERS' MEMORIAL Ottawa, Ont.

10 Memorization

Located in the Hall of Honour in Parliament Hill, this marble sculpture symbolizes the courage and self-sacrifice of Canadian nurses who served in the First World War.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS MONUMENT Ottawa, Ont.

10 Memorization

This monument represents the sacrifice of Aboriginal peoples in Canada during all wars, including the 7,000 who served in the First World War.



MEMORIAL CHAMBER Ottawa, Ont.

10 Memorization

One of the main components of the Peace Tower, this room is dedicated to the men and women who have died in military service. Their names are in a series of open books of remembrance in the chamber. Pages are turned every day so each name appears at least once over the course of a year.



PEACE TOWER Ottawa, Ont.

10 Memorization

Completed in 1927 (after fire in 1916 destroyed much of the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings), the Peace Tower was named to commemorate the end of the First World War.



FORT MASSEY CEMETERY Halifax, N.S.

10 Memorization

A military cemetery dating back to 1750, it contains 86 burials from the First World War.



TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER Ottawa, Ont.

10 Memorization

Containing the remains of a Canadian soldier who died in the First World War, this monument honours all Canadians who have died for their country in all conflicts.



MCCRAE HOUSE Guelph, Ont.

10 Memorization

The birthplace of John McCrae, the doctor, soldier and author of the iconic poem, "In Flanders Fields."



Credit: Veterans Affairs Canada