

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Questions about the First World War

- 1) Explore Canada's role at the battles of Ypres (1915), the Somme (1916), Vimy Ridge (1917), Passchendaele (1917) and the "Hundred Days" (1918). How were these battles similar or different from each other?
- 2) If wars have been fought for thousands of years, why is the war between 1914 and 1918 commonly referred to today as the "First World War?"
- 3) Due to its length and intensity, new weapons and technologies were introduced and improved upon during the First World War in the hope of delivering victory. List them and briefly describe how they affected the outcome of the war.
- 4) Why did First World War armies dig trenches? Did this happen by accident or by design? How did armies deal with the difficulties of attacking enemy trenches?
- 5) What was "shell-shock" and what factors brought about this condition. How was "shell-shock" treated during the First World War? Is it treated any differently today?
- 6) Trace the evolution of the airplane during the First World War and list the contributions of Canadians in the air war.
- 7) It is often said that Canada "came of age" during the First World War. What was it about the First World War experience that transformed Canada from a semi-dependent British Dominion into an autonomous nation?
- 8) How did the war and the experience of fighting in the trenches affect soldiers once they had returned to Canada at the end of the war?
- 9) Research the following Canadians and explain their wartime contribution: Sir Robert Borden, Sir Sam Hughes, Sir Arthur Currie, William "Billy" Bishop, Georges Vanier, A.G.L. McNaughton, Henri Bourassa, John McCrae,
- 10) During the First World War, seventy Canadians received the Victoria Cross. What is this award and how does one earn it? What is meant by a "posthumous" award?

