

SUPPLY LINE LESSON PLAN

IDENTITY

SOLDIERS OF THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Elementary version

OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students will use primary source material to gain a better understanding of some of the Canadians who participated in the First World War. The lesson explores the theme of identity on an individual, community and national level.

GRADE LEVELS:

4 to 6, cycles 2 and 3 in Quebec

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Social studies; language arts; media arts

ESTIMATED TIME:

3-4 class periods

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Use primary source material to learn about Canadian soldiers during the First World War;
- Respond through art;
- Consider what it means to be part of a family, community and country;
- Develop an appreciation of the diversity of the Canadian Expeditionary Force;

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Objects from the First World War Discovery Box
 - Attestation Paper
 - Nursing Sister's Apron
 - Soldier's Photo Album
 - Service Dress Cap and Cap Badge
 - Service Dress Jacket and Canada Shoulder Title
- Corresponding Artifact Information Labels
- Corresponding Contextual Photographs
- Photocopies of **Worksheets 1, 2, 3**
- Photocopies of **Appendices 1, 2, 3**
- Tape measure
- Art materials: pencil crayons, markers or paint
- Interactive whiteboard for projecting websites (optional)

Important:

The First World War discovery box includes both authentic artifacts from the First World War (about 100 years old) and high quality reproductions of objects from the First World War (made more recently). All objects, whether authentic or reproduction, should be treated with care.



LESSON

PART A – INTRODUCTION

Discuss as a class Canada's response to the outbreak of the First World War.

- Who were the people of Canada in 1914? Talk about immigration, First Peoples, Confederation, urban living vs. rural.
- What kinds of jobs did Canadians have?
- Why did Canada participate in the First World War?
- What were the motivations of the individuals who volunteered for the war?

Approximately 619,000 Canadians went overseas to fight during the First World War. For every Canadian who signed up to participate, an attestation paper was completed. These forms have been preserved at the Library and Archives Canada and all have been digitized and are available for consultation online. These forms can tell us a lot about the people who fought for Canada during the First World War and what life was like in Canada at the time.

*Note: Library and Archives Canada holds microfilm copies of the military personnel files of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Newfoundland Forestry Corps. These files have been digitized by **The Rooms** and are available for consultation online.*

PART B – ATTESTATION PAPER

Display **Appendix 1 – Attestation Paper** on an interactive whiteboard. Alternatively, display via overhead projector or distribute photocopies for student to examine.

As a class, go through the document and discuss the information provided. Use the questions in **Worksheet 1 – Service Personnel Information** to extract the relevant information. Discuss why the military might need to know this information.

PART C – PICTURE OF A SOLDIER

Distribute photocopies of **Worksheet 2 – Picture of a Soldier**.

Based on the physical description provided in the attestation paper, have students create a picture of what they think the soldier would have looked like. Show the students the uniform pieces and corresponding contextual photographs for inspiration.

PART D – THE STORY OF WILL VAN ALLEN

Explain to students that Will van Allen, the subject of the English attestation paper,¹ created a photo album of his time as a soldier.

Display the PDF of the Soldier's Photo Album – **Appendix 2 – Soldier's Photo Album** - on an interactive whiteboard. Alternatively, display via overhead projector or distribute photocopies for student to examine.

Explore the photo album as a class and discuss the additional information we can learn about Will van Allen based on his photos, captions and ephemera.

¹ *Note: Will van Allen's attestation paper is available in English only. When doing this activity in French, you can use the French attestation paper as an example, and then continue with the story of Will van Allen using the photo album, which has been translated.*

PART E – ENLISTMENT

Divide the class into pairs and distribute copies of **Worksheet 3 - Blank Attestation Paper**. Have students take turns playing the role of the recruitment officer and the enlisting soldier. Are there questions that are difficult to answer or that may not seem relevant today? Why?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

- As a class, or with students working in groups of 4 or 5, have students review the additional attestation papers provided in **Appendix 3 – Additional Attestation Papers** (First People's Soldier, Nursing Sister, other). Additional resources can be found on the [Library and Archives Soldiers of the First World War database](#). Based on their research, have students imagine what might have been the experience of this soldier or nursing sister and create a fictional scrapbook. Use images from Canada and the First World War and from the [Military History Research Centre](#) database.

WORKSHEETS

- 1 – Service Personnel Information
- 2 – Picture of a Soldier
- 3 – Blank Attestation Paper

APPENDICES

(Must be downloaded separately)

- 1 – Attestation Paper
- 2 – Additional Attestation Papers
- 3 – Soldier's Photo Album

SERVICE PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Student name: _____

Name: _____ **Rank:** _____

Service or Regimental Number: _____

(Officers did not have regimental numbers)

Height and Weight:

Colour of Eyes:

Scars or Markings on Body:

Marital Status:

Religion:

Address:

Next of Kin (and relationship):

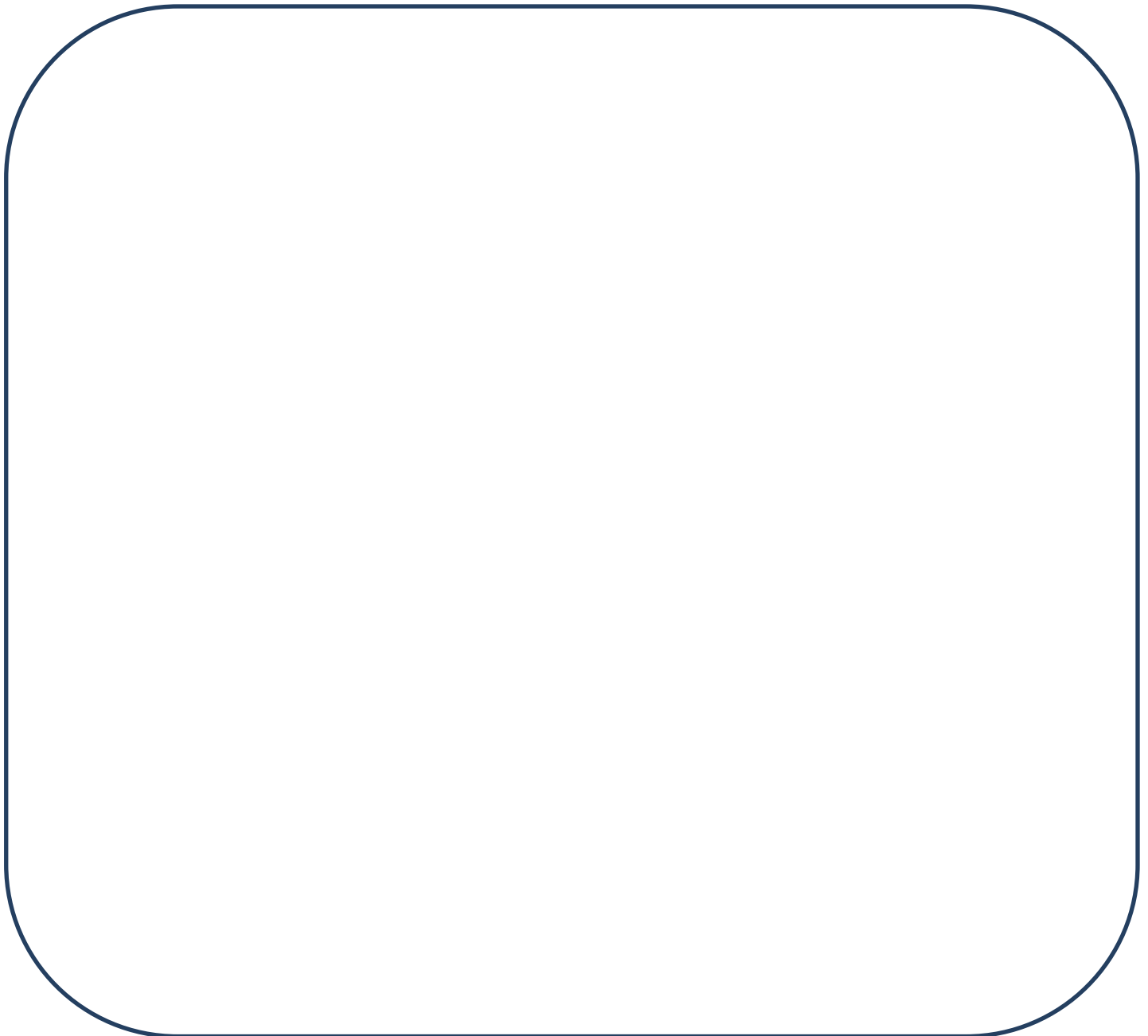
Date of Enlistment:

City and Province of Enlistment:

PICTURE OF A SOLDIER

Student name: _____

Based on the physical description provided, create a drawing of the soldier who completed the Attestation Paper.



BLANK ATTESTATION PAPER

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname?.....
- 1a. What are your Christian names?.....
- 1b. What is your present address?.....
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?.....
5. What is the date of your birth?.....
6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....
7. Are you married?.....
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?.....
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.....
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I,....., do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the **Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force**, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

.....(Signature of Recruit)

Date..... 191.....(Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I,....., do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

.....(Signature of Recruit)

Date..... 191.....(Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath

before me, at..... this..... day of..... 191.....

.....(Signature of Justice)



DESCRIPTION OF ON ENLISTMENT.

Apparent Age years months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Height ins.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Chest measure
meant { Girth when fully expanded ins.
Range of expansion ins.

Complexion

Eyes

Hair

Religious Denominations { Church of England
Presbyterian
Methodist
Baptist or Congregationalist
Other Protestants
(Denomination to be stated.)
Roman Catholic
Jewish

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him* for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date 191 .

Place Medical Officer.

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.—

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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT

..... having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

..... (Signature of Officer.)

Date 191