

Student Handout: Unit 1 Lesson 3



A Soldier's Diary

Suggested time: 2 Hours

What's important in this lesson:

It is important to develop your ability to place yourself in the historical event you are researching. Doing so helps you personalize the history you are studying. By using your historical imagination you will place yourself in the role of a Canadian soldier in the trenches at the Western Front. After completing this assignment, you should gain a factual and personal appreciation for the human cost of this war.

Complete these steps:

1. Using your historical imagination, create a soldier's diary based on the information you have learned from reading your textbook. Use any or all of the following:
 - *Canadiana Scrapbook: Canada and World War I: 1914-1918*
 - Any history textbook
 - www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWtrench.thm
 - sites accessed by doing a wordsearch online: type in key words "World War I and life in the trenches"

The Diary will consist of 3 entries. These will combine creativity and sound historical research.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

- Your Soldier's Diary (3 entries)

Questions for the teacher:

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World War I: A Soldier's Diary

Use your **historical imagination** and prior knowledge of World War I to write 3 diary entries by a Canadian soldier who fought during World War I. Your diary entries should combine creativity and sound research. Keep in mind that Canadian men and women fought both on the front lines and on the homefront in various capacities.

Main Sources of Information:

Your textbook, the scrapbook and the internet.

Specific Instructions:

1. Write three double-spaced diary entries, each entry approximately one page long.
2. The diary should look and sound as authentic as possible.
3. Create diary entries that consist of information which is **historically accurate** and based on **actual experiences** of Canadians who fought in World War I.
4. Include dates, fighting techniques, emotions, language, and attitudes in each of the entries.
5. For handing in, include a cover page with the assignment title, course code, teacher's name, due date and your name.

Grading Scheme:

10 marks 3 entries/cover page (knowledge and understanding)

10 marks depth and historical accuracy (thinking and inquiry)

10 marks creativity and authenticity (communication)

30 marks total