

WORLD WAR II - "TOTAL WAR"

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines all aspects of World War II - from its causes to its end. Canada's role is highlighted against the backdrop of a world at war. The four-week unit is divided into three parts combining optional lessons and a pictorial history with the main, information-based body of the unit. Finally, a unit about World War II, written from a Canadian perspective.

PART I - "TOTAL WAR" (1939 - 1945)

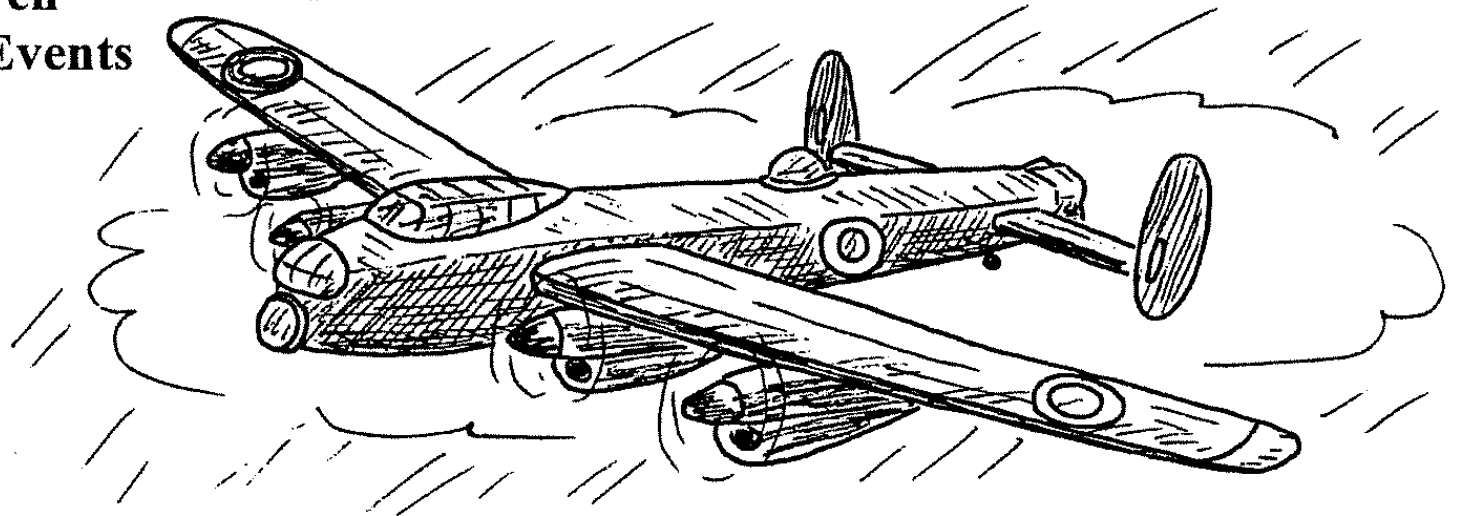
Part I is a structured, knowledge-based section focussing on important events of World War II. The unique Canadian perspective is integrated into the unit as students complete a series of overhead notes related assignments, designed to help the information sink in. Lesson topics and activities are:

- 1) Causes Of The War / The Rise Of Hitler - "Concept Map/Web"
- 2) Blitzkrieg / Battle Of Britain - "The World At War" (Map Activity)
- 3) Pearl Harbour / Turning Points - "World War II Timeline"
- 4) Dieppe - "War Correspondent" (Writing Activity)
- 5) D-Day - "Saving Private Ryan" (Movie Review)
- 6) Air War / U-Boat War - "Weapons Of World War II"
- 7) Surrender - "Review Worksheet"

PART II - OPTIONAL LESSONS

Optional activities help to build a degree of flexibility into the unit. Optional assignments can be added as separate activities, used to compliment other topics or given as enrichment. These include:

- 1) World War II Wordsearch
- 2) World War II/Current Events
- 3) Literature Resources
- 4) Movie Resources
- 5) Video Resources
- 6) Enrichment Crossword
- 7) Famous Battles
- 8) Internet Sites
- 9) Death By Moonlight



PART III - WORLD WAR II - A PICTORIAL HISTORY

A collection of seven diagrams and a cover, suitable for colouring, depict important moments in the history of the force. The diagrams are:

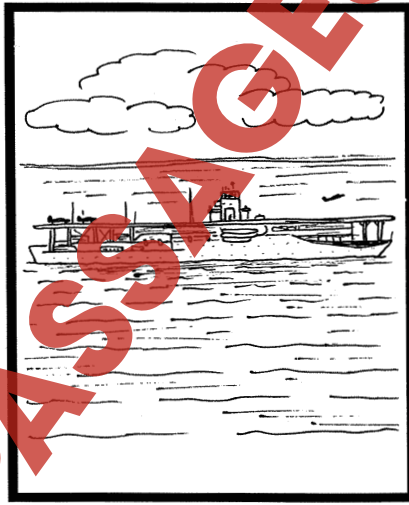
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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) "Blitzkrieg" | 2) "Day Of Infamy" |
| 3) "Battle Of The Atlantic" | 4) "Dieppe" |
| 5) "Last Stand At Stalingrad" | 6) "War In The Air" |
| 7) "The Nuclear Age" | |

WEAPONS OF WORLD WAR II

Name: _____

Akagi Aircraft Carrier (Japan)

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbour by planes launched from Japanese aircraft carriers, such as the Akagi, forever changed the way naval battles at sea would be fought. The Akagi was originally built as a cruiser but was converted into an aircraft carrier in 1934. It carried over fifty planes. These included torpedo bombers for sinking enemy ships, fighter planes (Zeros) to protect the carrier, and reconnaissance planes for finding and observing the enemy. Almost overnight, battleships had become out-of-date as carriers dominated the oceans. Now, surface ships did not even have to come within sight of each other for major battles to be fought.



T-34 Tank (Russia)

The Russian-built T-34 was the best tank of World War II. It was able to travel at 50km/h and its 76mm gun packed a powerful punch. (The size of gun is determined by measuring the inside diameter of the gun barrel.) However, what made the T-34 so effective was its armour. Steel, 50mm thick, protected the tank crew of four from German shells. Even more important was the sloped surface armour design of the T-34, which caused many German tank shells to simply bounce off without doing any damage. The sloped armour also gave the T-34 a low profile which made it a more difficult target to hit. The T-34 played a large part in helping to beat back the German invasion of Russia.



QUESTIONS

Instructions: Where possible, answer questions in full sentences.



- In World War II, battleships were much less important than aircraft carriers. Why?

- Explain why the T-34 was such an effective tank.

- Why was it important to have infantry soldiers alongside when tanks went into battle?

- If you were in charge of getting supplies to Britain, describe two strategies that you would use to help get your slow merchant ships safely past the U-Boats.

- List 3 difficulties that men would face living on board a submarine.
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

REVIEW

Name: _____

Instructions: Where possible, answer questions in full sentences.

- List five Allied countries.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

- List three Axis countries.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

- Describe the conditions in Germany after World War I that helped to allow Hitler to come to power.

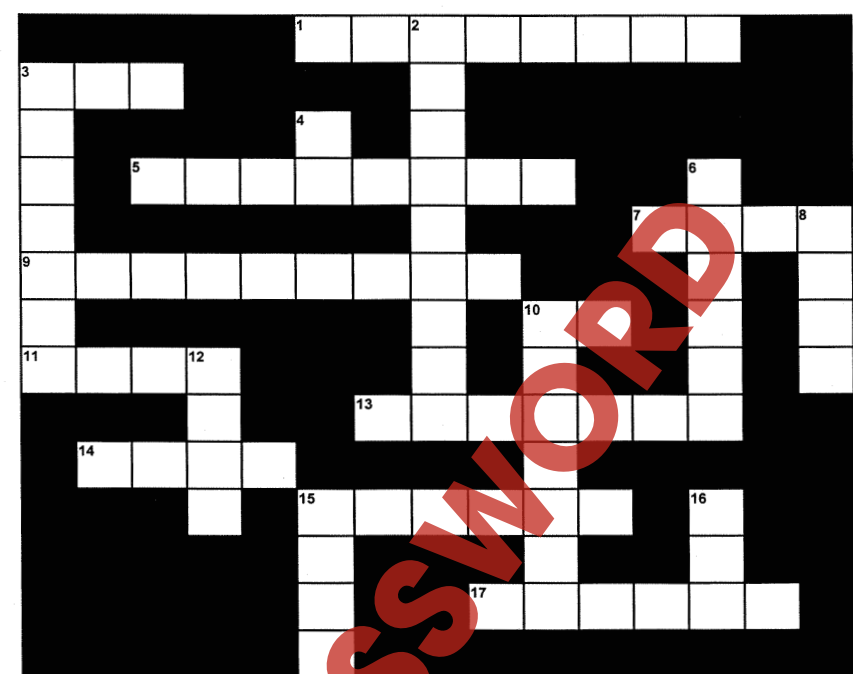
- Describe how a "Blitzkrieg" attack works.

- Describe what is meant by the term "Total War"?



WORLD WAR II ENRICHMENT CROSSWORD

Name: _____

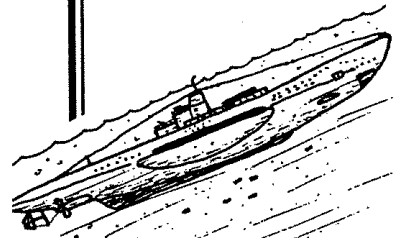


Across

- Japanese suicide planes launched these attacks on U.S. carriers towards the end of the war.
- After D-Day, Canadian soldiers helped to trap German soldiers in Normandy by closing the Falaise _____.
- This name was given to the plan that helped Germany to rebuild after the war.
- A member of the National Socialist German Workers Party was this.
- Over 2 million people were murdered by the Nazis at this death camp.
- The name given to American infantry soldiers. (Hint: General Infantry)
- This was the nickname given to an amphibious truck used on D-Day.
- This German city was destroyed by an Allied bomb attack killing 100,000 people.
- Canada's beach on D-Day.
- This was said during last ditch suicide charges made by Japanese soldiers.
- A V-2 was this type of weapon.

Down

- This general said, "I shall return."
- This was the highest scoring ace of the war.
- Fanatical German soldiers called "stormtroopers" were in this type of unit.
- The nickname given to the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
- After WWII ended, Winston Churchill said that this type of curtain had fallen through the middle of Europe.
- The name of the German Secret Police.
- Canada's Prime Minister during the war.
- Canada's highest scoring ace of the war. His last name was "Beurling".
- The nickname of General Dwight Eisenhower: Commander of Allied forces in Europe.



WORLD WAR II WORDSEARCH

Name: _____

F A A D V Y B U I X D E V E C
 L M U S S O L I N I P Z B K U
 Y O Z E R I F T I P S O M H R
 I B T C R Y T L E V E S O O R
 N Z L J E I E I M T F L B R E
 G A W I L O D D A Y O R M T Z
 F L G M T T D O L C A B O O N
 O U L A I Z B U A H E M T N A
 R F L X H U K U L K K A A A P
 T T I M H C S R E S S E M D R
 R W H I S T A L I N G R A D T
 E A C D C E U Q R E K N U D P
 S F U W P F E T E Y G P V K K
 S F H A F Y N V U L F A F T S
 L E C Y V E Q N F C A H W J T

D-Day
 Kursk
 Dunkerque
 Flying Fortress
 Panzer
 Stalin

Dieppe
 El Alamein
 U-Boat
 Atom Bomb
 Luftwaffe
 Churchill

Ortona
 Midway
 Blitzkrieg
 Blitz
 Messerschmitt
 Roosevelt

Stalingrad
 Pearl Harbor
 Spitfire
 Holocaust
 Hitler
 Mussolini

WORLD WAR II WORDSEARCH

Students complete a wordsearch with words going horizontally, vertically and diagonally but not inverted. The educational value of the activity is suspect but will occupy students for a short period of time in the interest of "vocabulary development".

Solution

F A A D V Y B U I X D E V E C
 L M U S S O L I N I P Z B K U
 Y O Z E R I F T I P S O M H R
 I B T C R Y T L E V E S O O R
 N Z L J E I E I M T F L B R E
 G A W I L O D D A Y O R M T Z
 F L G M T T D O L C A B O O N
 O U L A I Z B U A H E M T N A
 R F L X H U K U L K K A A A P
 T T I M H C S R E S S E M D R
 R W H I S T A L I N G R A D T
 E A C D C E U Q R E K N U D P
 S F U W P F E T E Y G P V K K
 S F H A F Y N V U L F A F T S
 L E C Y V E Q N F C A H W J T

ANSWER KEY