

# VIMY 100 IN THE CLASSROOM



THE VIMY FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION VIMY

With the support from

*Tim Hortons*

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES

When learning about history, or anything for that matter, we rely on sources. Sources are simply things that provide information and they come in many, many forms.

There are two main types of sources, primary and secondary, and they offer different benefits. The following activities will help you to understand the differences and encourage you to explore the advantages of each.

### TYPES OF SOURCES<sup>1</sup>

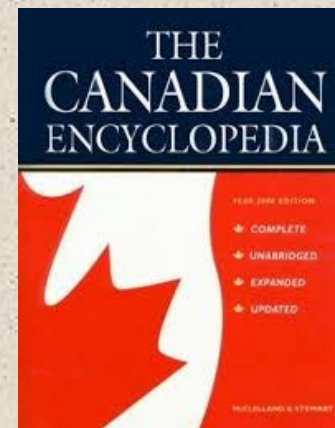
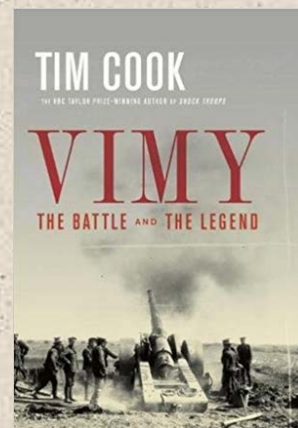
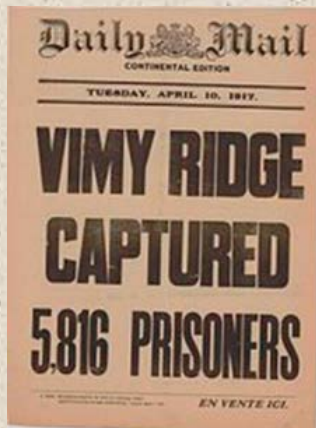
#### PRIMARY SOURCE

- First-hand evidence or eyewitness account of an event or person
- Tells about the event without adding any interpretation or commentary that may convey attitudes from a later time
- Reflects the individual viewpoint or bias (a one-sided point of view) of the participant/recorder
- Reflects the biases and attitudes of the time period in which it was written or produced

#### SECONDARY SOURCES

- Second-hand account of an event or person made after the time period being recorded
- Interprets, analyzes or explains a historical event and the evidence of that event
- Usually attempts to be objective and balanced, but may reflect the biases of the historian/recorder
- Could convey the attitudes of the time period in which it was written or produced

Test your understanding of primary and secondary sources by completing this short [QUIZ!](#)



<sup>1</sup>Types of Sources Definition from *Toronto Public Library: Ontario History Quest*

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## VALUE OF DIFFERENT SOURCES

1. In pairs or small groups examine each of the sources provided [here](#) about the Battle of Vimy Ridge.
2. For each of the sources, answer the following questions:
  - a. Is it a primary source or a secondary source? How do you know?
  - b. When might this type of source be used by a student and/or historian?
  - c. What are the benefits of using this type of source? List two or three advantages that a source of this type offers.
  - d. What are the downsides of using this type of source? List a few concerns you might have about using this type of source.
3. After exploring each of the sources, fill in the Venn diagram below. In the left outer circle, note the merits of using primary sources. In the right outer circle, note the merits of using secondary sources. In the overlapping portion of the circles, write down advantages shared by both primary and secondary sources.

