

# VIMY 100 IN THE CLASSROOM



THE VIMY FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION VIMY

With the support from

*Tim Hortons*

## CANADA'S FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLES

When studying the First World War, students generally encounter the same four battles: Ypres, the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. While each was certainly critical to the war in its own way, Canadians served and made sacrifices in other, lesser-known battles, which should also be remembered.



*R. Canadians in captured trenches on Hill 70. August, 1917. Library and Archives Canada / PA-001718*

### PREPARE AN HISTORICAL IDENTIFICATION

1. Divide into small groups and choose a battle from the list below. Be sure that the battle you choose is different from the other groups in your class. Your teacher may choose to assign battles to make it easier to decide.
2. Using the resources provided, as well as any other necessary research, complete an historical identification for your assigned battle by filling out the template found on the next page. Not every website will have information on your chosen battle; you may have to search multiple websites to complete your historical identification. Try using the 'search' function on some of the websites below:

#### BATTLES

Festubert and Givenchy, 1915

Mont Sorrel, 1916

Beaumont Hamel, 1916

Courcelette, 1916

Monchy-le-Preux, 1917

Hill 70, 1917

#### RESOURCES

[The Vimy Foundation – Canada's FWW Battles](#)

[Canadian War Museum](#)

[Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

[Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

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<b>Who?</b> Who was involved – list the nations	
<b>What?</b> What happened – include at least 4 or 5 historical details imagining that you are describing the battle to someone who knows nothing about it	
<b>When?</b> When it took place – give the specific date in addition to the year: it may also be helpful to put it in context by sharing which battles happened before or after it	
<b>Where?</b> Where it took place – describe the specific location	
<b>Historical Significance</b> Consider if the battle made a lasting impact; resulted in a great change for people or the nation; revealed something about the time period, or the nation; showed change in technology, military strategies or in other ways	

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## THINK CREATIVELY

1. Create an image to feature on a piece of Canadian currency or postage stamp to honour your lesser-known battle and raise awareness of its importance in our nation's history.
2. Write the pitch to the Royal Canadian Mint or Canada Post that would accompany your design. Explain your design and convince the organization that your battle should be commemorated.

## BATTLE SHOWDOWN

1. With your group, prepare a three-minute presentation in which you:
  - present key information from your historical identification; and
  - make a persuasive argument as to why your battle should be the one additional battle included on the shortlist studied by 20th century Canadian History students each year.
2. Each group will then make a presentation to your class.
3. As you listen to all of your classmates' presentations, note at least two convincing points for each battle to be included on the shortlist.
4. At the completion of the presentations, you and your classmates will vote anonymously for your top three choices (yes, you can vote for your own - - it's anonymous!). Your teacher can determine if a "vote-off" (with or without additional arguments being made) needs to be done if the results are close.

**EXTENSION:** Have the top three groups in your class present at a school assembly around Remembrance Day and champion their battle. Check out CBC's "Canada Reads" program for a model for doing so. After the assembly, send an online survey to the student body so they can vote on which one should be chosen.