

SUPPLY LINE LESSON PLAN

THE STORY OF WILL VAN ALLEN

OVERVIEW

This lesson offers an age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate overview of the experience of a Canadian soldier in the First World War using artifacts to illustrate a narrative based on the true story of Will van Allen.

GRADE LEVELS:

Kindergarten to grade 3,
Kindergarten to Cycle 2 in Quebec

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Social Studies; Community Studies; Language Arts;
Geography

ESTIMATED TIME:

1-2 class periods

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Explore the concept of Historical Significance. Consider the impact of the First World War on an individual, on a community and on a country;
- Identify the role of a soldier and develop new vocabulary;
- Develop empathy for others;
- Make a connection to Remembrance Day.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Objects in the First World War Discovery Box
 - Official War Art (optional)
 - Barbed wire (optional)
 - Mark I Helmet (optional)
 - Nursing Sister's Apron
 - Posters (optional)
 - Puttees
 - Service Dress Cap and General Service Cap Badge
 - Service Dress Cap and Canada Shoulder Title
 - Soldier's Photo Album
 - Trench Art (optional)
 - Trench Periscope
- Corresponding contextual photographs (optional)
- Corresponding artifact labels (optional)
- Interactive whiteboard OR printed copies of the pages in Appendix 1

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

If this lesson is being delivered in the context of learning about Remembrance Day, you may choose to start with a discussion on the history of Remembrance Day. Consider symbols that students may be familiar with – for example poppies, veterans with medals, community ceremonies, and two minutes of silence. Explain that we pause for reflection at exactly 11 a.m. on November 11 because that is the time that the First World War officially ended.

Set up the story by discussing key concepts as a class. Explain that the First World War happened many years ago and involved many countries. Although the battles occurred far away, many Canadians volunteered to participate. You may also discuss the definition of a soldier. Do the students know anyone who is involved with the military? Soldiers have many different jobs within the military today. What are some of their roles?

This lesson is a narrative based on the true story of Will van Allen. A reproduced version of his personal photo album is contained within the First World War Discovery Box. This lesson offers a concise overview of the experience of a Canadian soldier who volunteered for service early in the war. Key images and related artifacts have been chosen to illustrate the narrative in a clear and approachable way.

PART B – THE STORY OF WILL VAN ALLEN

Read the story as a class. Involve students to demonstrate relevant artifacts. If possible, display the student version of the story using a projector or interactive whiteboard.

EXTENSION

- Explore the complete soldier’s photo album as a class. You can use the album provided in the Discovery Box or you can project the PDF version available for download on the Supply line website;
- Complete the “make a periscope activity” available on the website **Canada’s Naval History**;
- Complete the lesson plan **What’s Going on in this Painting?** Available in the Teacher Resource Binder or for download on the Supply Line website;
- Use the story of Will van Allen as the starting point for the Inquiry Process – what new questions do you have about the First World War? About life in Canada 100 years ago?

APPENDICES

(Must be downloaded separately)

1 – The Story of Will van Allen (Teacher’s Version)

2 – The Story of Will van Allen (Student Version)