

# VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## TEACHER OVERVIEW

### WITNESS TO HISTORY – PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF MILITARY SERVICE

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

##### (All Grades)

This unique program enables students to interact with a veteran or a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, who will share their personal experiences and perspectives. Volunteers representing a variety of conflicts and service areas are available (Afghanistan, domestic operations, and service abroad with international organizations such as NATO, NORAD or the UN). Volunteers also come from a range of trades and professions. While every effort will be made to match groups with their preferred choice, the final selection will be based on volunteer availability. Requests for this program must be made at least three weeks in advance. *Moderated by a Museum staff member.*

**Curriculum Connections:** Social Studies

**Historical Thinking:** Historical Perspective

**Duration:** 45 minutes



CWM2015-0113-0067-Dm

#### BEFORE THE PROGRAM

It is very helpful to encourage your students to think of appropriate questions in advance. You may choose to share the questions with your Museum contact up to 24 hours before the start of your program, though it is not required. We've put together some pointers for crafting good questions.

- Review the volunteer's biography and consider the historical events they have witnessed.
- Reflect on broad, relatable topics such as being far from home, the volunteer's motivation for joining the military, or further details on their role.
- Please remind your students that it is not appropriate to ask if the volunteer has killed anyone. Our volunteers are not always comfortable fielding this question. If your students have that sort of interest, consider redirecting them to more open-ended questions that will allow the volunteer more flexibility to answer how they see fit. For example, "What are some of the hardest things you have done?"

## BEFORE THE PROGRAM, CONTINUED

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### About The Museum

If you would like to familiarize yourself or your students with the Canadian War Museum, we suggest this [short video](#). It features spectacular views of the building alongside images of some of the Museum's most treasured artifacts. To learn more about the history of the War Museum, including an overview of its galleries, please visit the [About section](#) of our website.

## AFTER THE PROGRAM

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Follow up your virtual experience by exploring one of the many [online resources](#) that the Canadian War Museum has to offer. You'll find digitized content, historical overviews and classroom-ready activities.

### Remembrance Day

Planning a Remembrance ceremony? Looking for accessible primary source materials? Developed for educators, this new digital resource includes artifacts, art and documents from the Museum's collections, as well as historical overviews and learning activities. This [online module](#) has content and suggestions for Remembrance ceremonies that are ready to use, or can be customized for your class, school or virtual event.

### Supply Line: Travelling Discovery Boxes

Explore [teacher resources](#) developed for the First and Second World War Discovery Boxes. Use the background materials, including personal stories and archival documents, and the lesson plans on their own or in conjunction with the travelling education kit.

### Research Guides: Military Personnel

Uncover an individual's wartime service and experiences with the help of a [research guide](#). Learn how to access and gather information from wartime documentation and modern publications, as well as find photos, art, equipment and more.

The guide will walk you through the steps of finding where and when a person served, as well as their unit history, culture, important activities or battle honours. Learn about training, promotions, medals, injuries and medical treatment, graves and memorials, and the context of their war service.

## CONTACT US

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If you have any questions, please contact us at [information@warmuseum.ca](mailto:information@warmuseum.ca) or call 819-776-7000 (local), 1-800-555-5621 (toll-free).

Interested in regular updates from the Museum? Sign up for our new [Teachers' Club](#).