

Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Resources for Your School Library



Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) offers educators a wide selection of **free, bilingual** resources about Remembrance and Canada's military history, from the South African War to today.

Our resources are available in multiple formats. If high-quality printed copies are what you need, you can request many of our materials using our easy-to-use [on-line ordering system](#) (there are absolutely **no shipping charges**). And if you are looking for instant access to our materials in your library, our [Veterans Affairs Canada](#) Web site is the place to go.

Let's explore some of the resources that you might find useful to engage students using the school library. These can also be shared with other teachers in your school who come to you for help in preparing a lesson plan about Canadian military history.

Veterans Affairs Canada Historical Resources

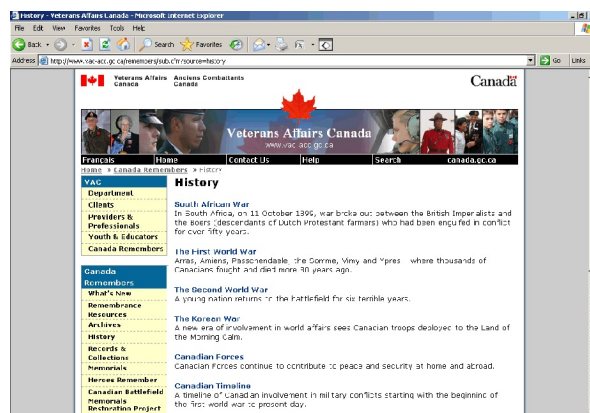
'Remembrance' is an important part of being a well-informed Canadian. How can we truly understand the country we have today without a knowledge of the sacrifices and achievements that have been made by our Veterans and current Canadian Forces members to protect the peace and freedom we enjoy?



That is where our wide selection of historical resources can come in. For a country that has an international reputation for peace, Canada has taken part in many wars and conflicts. Knowing what Canada did - and why - is important. VAC has a wide selection of historical publications like **public information sheets** and **historical booklets**, covering many chapters of our military heritage from the First World War to modern-day Canadian Forces efforts. Our concise public information sheets are ideal for providing an overview of a subject, helpful to teachers looking to give their students some historical background in an easy-to-digest manner. Our longer historical booklets (some of which are more than 50 pages in length) offer more in-depth information on a subject, making them very useful for research projects or other situations where a more detailed historical account is required.

Check out the '[History](#)' portion of our Web site to explore some of our resources. Most of our materials are available in **HTML** and downloadable **PDF** formats, and we offer our streaming video resources in **Flash**, **Window Media** and **QuickTime** formats.

You can also order high-quality printed versions of many of our materials using our [on-line ordering system](#).



Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Materials

VAC also produces high-quality resources created specifically for educators. Our **comprehensive multimedia learning kits** offer videos/DVDs, in-depth historical information, lesson plans and a variety of other resources like posters, music CDs, postcards and information sheets to give educators the tools with which to engage their students. We currently offer kits about the **First World War**, the **Second World War** and the **Korean War**, which are designed primarily for grades 7-12.



We also offer on-line learning modules, again designed primarily for grades 7-12, for you and your school focussing on specific military events, such as [D-Day and the Battle of Normandy](#), the [Italian Campaign](#), the [Battle of the Atlantic](#), the [Liberation of the Netherlands](#), and the [Liberation of Belgium and the Battle of the Scheldt](#). And that is not all. 'Heroes and Poppies - an Introduction to Remembrance', the '[60th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War Teacher's Guide](#)' and the '[50 Way to Remember](#)' information sheet offer a wealth of activities that educators can use as starting points to incorporate Remembrance into their teaching, while the '[Candlelight Tribute Ceremony](#)' information sheet has instructions for organizing a 'candlelight tribute' that a school could conduct to show that we remember Canadians who have given their lives in service.



Veterans' Week Materials

Each year, VAC distributes hundreds of thousands of copies of our Veterans' Week youth newspapers across Canada. [Tales of Animals in War](#) is aimed at youth aged 5 to 11 and introduces concepts of remembrance to a young audience in a gentle manner using the six Remembrance Clubhouse animal characters: Simone the Cat, Ellie the Elephant, Bonfire Jr. the horse, Gandy the dog, Squeaker the pigeon and Win the bear. These bilingual colour newspapers come in sets of 30, ideal for use in a classroom setting or for distribution in a school library.

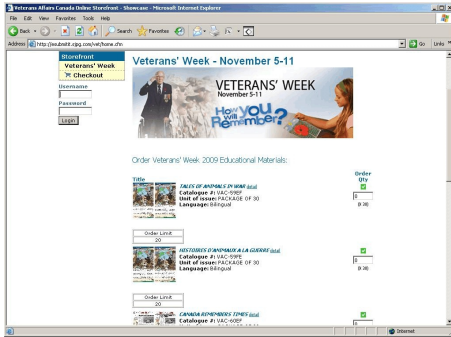
The [Canada Remembers Times](#) is aimed at youth aged 12 to 18 and explores interesting chapters from Canada's military heritage. Each year the paper features historical and human interest stories on the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, and Canada's numerous peace support missions overseas and at home. The contributions of women, Aboriginal-Canadians and visible minorities in uniform are recognized, plus much more. This bilingual colour newspaper also comes in sets of 30.



[Postcards for Peace](#) is a learning activity that allows youth to send postcards expressing their personal thanks to those who have served in the cause of peace and freedom over the years. A class pack includes 30 postcards and an instruction sheet with information on how to send the postcards to Veterans or current members of the Canadian Forces serving overseas.

We also offer colourful [Veterans' Week posters](#) , available in 8.5" x 11" and 18" x 24" sizes. Our **Veterans' Week bookmarks** are very popular as well.

To request these materials early next fall, call VAC toll free at **1-877-604-8469** or use our convenient on-line **Veterans' Week ordering system**. This easy-to-use system allows you to make your order instantaneously. If you order by the **second week of October**, you will be assured of receiving your materials prior to **Veterans' Week**, November 5 to 11.



Other Veterans Affairs Canada On-line Resources

2010 is a milestone year for many significant events from Canada's military history. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy, the 95th anniversary of the Newfoundland Regiment's fighting at Gallipoli during the First World War, and the 65th anniversaries of the liberation of the Netherlands, the Murmansk Run, the liberation of Hong Kong prisoners of war and the end of the Second World War. VAC will be offering a variety of historical and educational resources with information on these events. 2010 also saw Canada play host to the world at the Vancouver Winter Olympics. You can explore our [Olympics Web feature](#) to learn about Canadians who both served Canada in a military uniform and competed for our country at the Olympics over the years.

We offer a number of other interesting Web features, exploring subjects like the [90th anniversary of the end of the First World War](#), the [55th anniversary of the Korean War armistice](#), and the [Canadian Forces - in the service of peace](#).

We have many other on-line resources, as well. For example, '[Experience Vimy](#)' allows users to visit the **Canadian National Vimy Memorial** in France without leaving their chairs. Students can use their computer mouse to swoop up and down and zoom in and out to view the memorial from many different angles. You can also read the names of the 11,285 Canadians who died in France during the First World War and who have no known grave which are inscribed on the base of the monument.

'[Heroes Remember](#)' is a database of videotaped interviews with Canadian Veterans, containing approximately 2,400 English clips and more than 560 French clips. With this tool, students can search for first-hand accounts from men and women who served in the navy, army, air force, Merchant Navy, or on the home front; stories related to significant chapters in our country's military heritage; and even find interviews with Veterans from their own communities, regions or provinces. There are a variety of interesting components associated with this resource, such as a section focussing on the contributions of [Chinese-Canadians during the Second World War](#).



Through video clips and archival footage, the [La force francophone](#) Web feature provides first person accounts from French speaking Canadian men and women from all walks of life who

served both at home and overseas during the Second World War. This feature honours these Francophones from across Canada by giving them the opportunity to tell their stories on a number of different themes.

In the [First World War Audio Archive](#) Web component you can learn about Canada's participation in the First World War by listening to audio recollections of Veterans as they recall their life and times during the war years. As well, you can view a selection of Canadian artist William Redver Stark's collection of First World War sketches, showcased in six thematic galleries. A visit to the medals section provides information on service medals awarded during the First World War. Finally, in the learning corner one can explore a variety of multimedia presentations.

VAC's array of educational and informational resources can help you meet your provincial curriculum goals while fostering students' understanding of the sacrifices and achievements of those who have served in the cause of peace and freedom. **Visit the ['Youth & Educators'](#)** section of the VAC Web site today and see what you may have been missing.