

LESSON CHALLENGE #2.1

In this critical challenge, students decide which three Canadian military contributions to World War II are most historically significant.

UNIT: Canada's international role in the twentieth century

Selecting Canada's greatest military contributions to World War II

Introduce the idea of responsible participation in international affairs

If students are unfamiliar with this historical thinking concept, use the six-minute video *Thinking about history: Historical significance* to introduce students to the concept. The accompanying lesson plan provides pre-, during- and post-viewing activities with support materials to extend student thinking about the ideas in the video. The lesson plan and the video are found in the online supplement that accompanies this resource.



Introduce the historical thinking challenge

Explain that students will be playing the role of a museum curator. Provide the following prompt: *As a curator for Canada's War Museum, you have funds to create three displays commemorating Canada's military achievements in World War II. Your task is to select Canada's three most important military contributions to World War II and provide a rationale for your choices.*

Research the events

Working in groups, ask students to research and summarize the six events outlined in *Evaluating Canada's military contributions to World War II* (Student Activity Sheet #1). Suggest that students use textbooks and various online sources such as the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, which has informative entries on all the events. You may wish to show videos or an informational slideshow to help students understand the nature of fighting in and Canada's contribution to World War II.

Rate the events

Direct groups to complete *Evaluating Canada's military contributions to World War II* by discussing the possible ratings in light of the criteria for judgment. Students do not need to reach agreement on their ratings.

Name: _____

Evaluating Canada's military contributions to World War II Student Activity Sheet #1

As a curator for Canada's War Museum, you have funds to create three displays highlighting Canada's military achievements in World War II. Select Canada's three most important military contributions to World War II and explain your choices. Use the following chart to gather and save the information.

	Evacuation of German industrial plants and cities (Dietrichroth)	Battle of Britain	Battle of Diefen
Summary of events What happened (date, where, when, where, why, how)? Contribution to your own world. • Explain the significance. • Explain the impact. • In what way? • How did it affect the world?			
Significance of the event How important was the event to the world during World War II?	1 2 3 4 5 1 = not important at all 5 = very important	1 2 3 4 5 1 = not important at all 5 = very important	1 2 3 4 5 1 = not important at all 5 = very important
Canada's contribution How much of the impact did Canada have on the event?	1 2 3 4 5 1 = not important at all 5 = very important	1 2 3 4 5 1 = not important at all 5 = very important	1 2 3 4 5 1 = not important at all 5 = very important

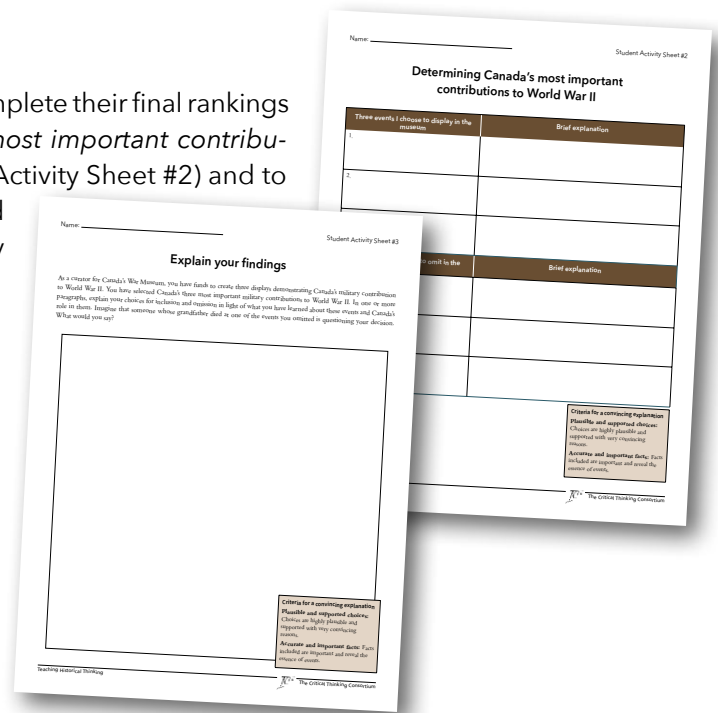
Criteria for an effective summary and rating

Accurate and complete facts
Dates included are important and show the sequence of events.

Positive and supporting evidence
Chosen as highly positive and supported with key supporting details.

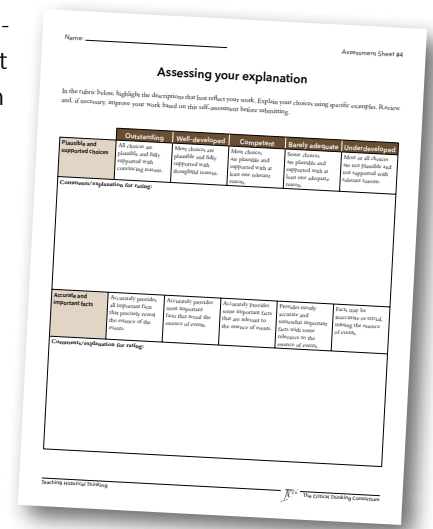
Write the final paragraphs

Ask students to individually complete their final rankings using *Determining Canada's most important contributions to World War II* (Student Activity Sheet #2) and to write paragraphs using detailed historical evidence to justify their rankings using *Explain your findings* (Student Activity Sheet #3).



Assessment for understanding

Before submitting the paragraphs, invite students to complete the rubric *Assessing your explanation* (Assessment Sheet #4) to self-assess their paragraphs. This rubric can also be used for peer and teacher assessment.



Extension

Invite students to choose the most significant contribution. Forming groups with others who share this view, ask each group to create a museum display for viewing by other students in the school.

Evaluating Canada's military contributions to World War II

As a curator for Canada's War Museum, you have funds to create three displays highlighting Canada's military involvement in World War II. Select Canada's three most important military contributions to World War II and explain your choices. Use the following chart to gather and assess the information.

	Bombing of German industrial targets and cities (bomber command)					Battle of Britain					Battle of Dieppe				
Summary of Event What happened (who, what, when, where, why, how)? Summarize in your own words. <i>Criteria for an effective summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Captures main ideas ▶ Is accurate ▶ Is brief ▶ Uses your own words 															
Importance of the event How important was the event in contributing to the Allied victory?	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
	unimportant					unimportant					unimportant				
	very important					very important					very important				
	Explanation:					Explanation:					Explanation:				
Canada's contribution How much of an impact did Canada have on this event?	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
	unimportant					unimportant					unimportant				
	very important					very important					very important				
	Explanation:					Explanation:					Explanation:				

Criteria for an effective summary and rating

Accurate and important facts

Facts included are important and reveal the essence of events.

Plausible and supported rating

Choices are highly plausible and supported with very convincing reasons.

Name: _____

Student Activity Sheet #1

	Battle of the Atlantic					Italian campaign					Normandy invasion/ Liberation of the Netherlands				
<p>Summary of Event</p> <p>What happened (who, what, when, where, why, how)? Summarize in your own words. <i>Criteria for an effective summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Captures main ideas ▶ Is accurate ▶ Is brief ▶ Uses your own words 															
<p>Importance of the event</p> <p>How important was the event in contributing to the Allied victory?</p>	1 unimportant	2	3	4	5 very important	1 unimportant	2	3	4	5 very important	1 unimportant	2	3	4	5 very important
	Explanation:					Explanation:					Explanation:				
<p>Canada's contribution</p> <p>How much of an impact did Canada have on this event?</p>	1 unimportant	2	3	4	5 very important	1 unimportant	2	3	4	5 very important	1 unimportant	2	3	4	5 very important
	Explanation:					Explanation:					Explanation:				



Determining Canada's most important contributions to World War II

Three events I choose to display in the museum	Brief explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	
Three events I choose to omit in the museum	Brief explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	

Criteria for a convincing explanation

Plausible and supported choices:

Choices are highly plausible and supported with very convincing reasons.

Accurate and important facts: Facts included are important and reveal the essence of events.

Explain your findings

As a curator for Canada's War Museum, you have funds to create three displays demonstrating Canada's military contribution to World War II. You have selected Canada's three most important military contributions to World War II. In one or more paragraphs, explain your choices for inclusion and omission in light of what you have learned about these events and Canada's role in them. Imagine that someone whose grandfather died at one of the events you omitted is questioning your decision. What would you say?

Criteria for a convincing explanation
Plausible and supported choices:
Choices are highly plausible and supported with very convincing reasons.
Accurate and important facts: Facts included are important and reveal the essence of events.

Assessing your explanation

In the rubric below, highlight the descriptions that best reflect your work. Explain your choices using specific examples. Review and, if necessary, improve your work based on this self-assessment before submitting.

	Outstanding	Well-developed	Competent	Barely adequate	Underdeveloped
Plausible and supported choices	All choices are plausible and fully supported with convincing reasons.	Most choices are plausible and fully supported with thoughtful reasons.	Most choices are plausible and supported with at least one relevant reason.	Some choices are plausible and supported with at least one adequate reason.	Most or all choices are not plausible and not supported with relevant reasons.
Comments/explanation for rating:					
Accurate and important facts	Accurately provides all important facts that precisely reveal the essence of the events.	Accurately provides most important facts that reveal the essence of events.	Accurately provides some important facts that are relevant to the essence of events.	Provides mostly accurate and somewhat important facts with some relevance to the essence of events.	Facts may be inaccurate or trivial, missing the essence of events.
Comments/explanation for rating:					