

In this inaugural critical challenge, students judge the extent to which Canada's record in international affairs from 1914 to 2000 was responsible. They offer a very preliminary speech to the UN General Assembly arguing for or against Canada's appointment as a special UN ambassador on conflict resolution and development.

UNIT: Canada's international role in the twentieth century

Canada's record in international affairs during the twentieth century

If students are unfamiliar with this historical thinking concept, use the six-minute video *Thinking about history: Ethical judgment* 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 video are found in the online supplement that accompanies this resource.



Introduce the idea of responsible participation in international affairs

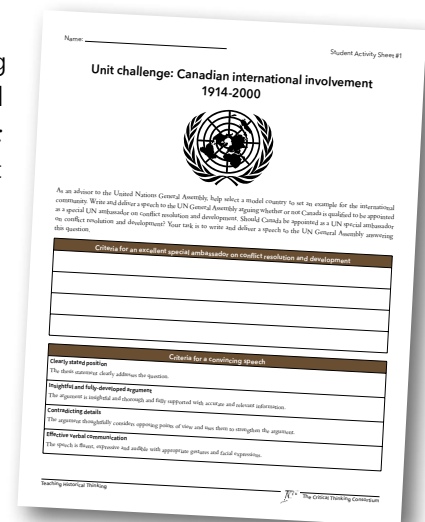
Without offering additional information, ask students to create a 30-second talk to convince a partner that Canada did or did not act responsibly in the several scenarios that they may have studied recently or otherwise be familiar with. These might include:

- the successful capture of Passchendaele in 1917, during World War I
- the deployment of 5,000 soldiers at Dieppe in 1942 to open a second front against Nazi Germany in Europe
- the decision not to send ground troops into Iraq and Syria to fight ISIS

After they have reached their initial judgments, ask students in what ways their judgments were problematic (for example, they lacked enough information about the event and the context to decide, did not have clear criteria by which to judge). After a brief discussion, explain that in this unit students will be studying various aspects of Canada's role in international affairs during the twentieth century.

Introduce the challenge

Explain that throughout the unit students will be writing and then eventually delivering a speech to the UN General Assembly. Provide the scenario outlined on *Unit challenge: Canadian international involvement, 1914-2000* (Student Activity Sheet #1). Explain to students that as an advisor to the United Nations General Assembly, they are to help select a model country to set an example for the international community. Their ultimate task is to write and deliver a more substantial speech to the UN General Assembly arguing whether or not Canada is qualified to be appointed as a special UN ambassador for international conflict resolution and development.



Introduce criteria for judgment

Ask students to consider criteria they might use to judge whether a country is worthy of being a UN special ambassador on conflict resolution and development. As a class, generate a list that includes criteria such as:

- Canada helped others facing injustices.
- Canada successfully worked towards maintaining peace.
- Canada maintained an excellent record on human rights.
- Canada complied with the terms of its international agreements.

Direct students to choose three or four criteria by which to judge Canada's international record for the purpose of preparing their speech.

Introduce the ongoing task

Because this is an overarching unit challenge, the background knowledge required to complete it successfully is vast and represents many weeks of classroom work. While there are a myriad of ways for students to acquire the necessary background knowledge to complete this challenge, it is important to continually revisit the overarching challenge throughout the unit. Students may be asked to complete *Rating Canada's record in international affairs, 1914-2000* (Student Activity Sheet #2) as they are introduced to various events throughout the unit.

Name: _____ Student Activity Sheet #2

Rating Canada's record in international affairs, 1914-2000

Your criteria for a special ambassador country:

-
-
-

Rate the event(s) on a scale from -2 (very responsible) to +2 (very irresponsible) based on your criteria. Explain each rating.

Event	To what extent were Canada's actions and intentions responsible				
	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Should War I really happen (Europe, Germany)					
World War I, the War at Sea and in the Air					
World War II early battles (Dunkirk, Hong Kong, Battle of Britain)					
World War II at sea (Battle of the Atlantic)					
Should War II late battles (D-Day, Berlin/Soviet)					

Teaching Historical Thinking The Critical Thinking Consortium

Unit challenge: Canadian international involvement 1914-2000



As an advisor to the United Nations General Assembly, help select a model country to set an example for the international community. Write and deliver a speech to the UN General Assembly arguing whether or not Canada is qualified to be appointed as a special UN ambassador on conflict resolution and development. Should Canada be appointed as a UN special ambassador on conflict resolution and development? Your task is to write and deliver a speech to the UN General Assembly answering this question.

Criteria for an excellent special ambassador on conflict resolution and development

Criteria for a convincing speech

Clearly stated position

The thesis statement clearly addresses the question.

Insightful and fully-developed argument

The argument is insightful and thorough and fully supported with accurate and relevant information.

Contradicting details

The argument thoughtfully considers opposing points of view and uses them to strengthen the argument.

Effective verbal communication

The speech is fluent, expressive and audible with appropriate gestures and facial expressions.

Rating Canada's record in international affairs, 1914-2000

Your criteria for a special ambassador country:

-
-
-
-

Rate the event(s) on a scale from -2 (very irresponsible) to +2 (very responsible) based on your criteria. Explain each rating.

Event	To what extent were Canada's actions and intentions responsible				
World War I early battles (Ypres, Somme)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Sample reasons: In both battles Canada co-operated with other countries (Britain, France, Belgium). Neither battle did anything to create peace—just a lot of needless bloodshed. Canada was trying to help the Belgians at Ypres who were facing the injustice of having the Germans attack them, even though they were neutral.				
World War I trench warfare and battles (Vimy, Passchendaele)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				
World War I, the war at sea and in the air	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				
World War II early battles (Dunkirk, Hong Kong, Battle of Britain)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				
World War II at sea (Battle of the Atlantic)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				
World War II late battles (Italy, D-Day, Netherlands)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				

Creation of and membership in the United Nations	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
NATO, NORAD, DEW Line	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
Korean War	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
Event	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
Event	To what extent were Canada's actions and intentions responsible					
Bomarc Missile Controversy	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
Suez Crisis	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
Canada's refusal to participate in the Vietnam War	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
1991 Gulf War	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:
1992-1995, Kosovo and Bosnia	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	Reasons:

Ottawa Treaty	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				
UN peacekeeping: Somalia	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				
UN peacekeeping: Rwanda	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	Reasons:				