THINK HISTORY CANADIAN HISTORY SINCE 1914

Chapter Summary

Chapter 2: Trial by Fire: Canada Enters World War One

This chapter explores Canada's participation in the First World War and how its participation influenced Canadian identity. The chapter looks at the causes of the war and allows you to explore the concepts of imperialism and nationalism, which also influenced Canadian society in the early 1900s. You will examine Canadians' responses to the war and how they reflected societal attitudes and internal conflicts. You will also explore how the government supported the war effort and what impact this had on the lives of Canadians. The chapter also looks at the nature of warfare and how technology influenced the way battles were fought. It also examines the major battles that Canadians fought.

Investigate

Social, Economic, and Political Context

- What effect did the War Measures Act have on the legal rights of Canadians?
- What effect did the war have on the role of women?
- What was the war's impact on the home front?

Communities, Conflict, and Cooperation

- How did Canada get involved in the First World War?
- How did the nature of warfare and technology contribute to a war of attrition?
- What were conditions like for men in the trenches?
- Describe Canada's military role in the First World War.

Identity, Citizenship, and Heritage

- How did Canada's contribution on the battlefield affect Canadian identity?
- What impact did conscription have on Canadian unity?
- What challenges did Aboriginal soldiers face during the war and upon their return home?
- What factors contributed to Canada's emerging autonomy?

Building Your Inquiry Skills

Interpreting Political Cartoons

The Building Your Inquiry Skills in Chapter 2 helps you to apply critical thinking to political cartoons. It gives you the steps to interpret cartoons, including determining the central idea, the devices used, and the cartoonist's biases and point of view. This is an important skill for you to have as you examine political cartoons as a primary source of information about events and attitudes in the past.