THINK HISTORY CANADIAN HISTORY SINCE 1914

Chapter Summary

Chapter 5: World on Fire: Canada and World War Two

This chapter explores Canada's participation in the Second World War and how it influenced Canada socially, politically, and economically. It looks at the rise of totalitarianism in Europe and Asia, as well as the causes of the war. You will examine Canada's societal attitudes and social policies leading up to the war. You will also explore Canadians' response to the war and contrast it to that of the First World War. You will look at how conscription divided the country and influenced the policies of Mackenzie King's government during the war. You also explore how these policies and the government's dedication to total war in turn influenced the welfare state in Canada. This chapter details Canada's contribution on the battlefields and the lasting impact of soldiers' efforts on Canada's national identity and international reputation.

Investigate

Social, Economic, and Political Context

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

Communities, Conflict, and Cooperation

- Why were totalitarian leaders able to gain power in Europe and Asia?
- How did Canada get involved in the Second World War?
- What was Canada's military role in the Second World War?

Identity, Citizenship, and Heritage

- How did the war raise awareness of human rights issues?
- What factors contributed to Canada's emerging autonomy?
- How was Canadian identity strengthened by the war?

Building Your Inquiry Skills

Reading Historical Information from a Map

The Building Your Inquiry Skills in Chapter 5 helps you to examine maps as historical documents. It shows you how to interpret maps to understand the information they convey. The feature also encourages you to think about maps in a critical way, including what information is included or excluded, and how that influences your reading of the map.