

ABORIGINAL WAR VETERANS



Content Related Resources

Veterans Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Canadian Veterans

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/aboriginal-veterans>

Canadian War Museum

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/people/in-uniform/first-nations-soldiers/>

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1303129235933/1303130595693>

You Tube video: Honouring First Nations Veterans

Length: 10m 56s

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4NGNwDM38w>

Forgotten Heroes: The Stolo Nation World War II Veteran Experience

<http://app.ufv.ca/fvhistory/studentsites/wwII/stoloverterans/Index.html>

Native Veterans: In honour of First Nation people who fought in Canada's Wars

<http://nativeveterans.com/>

CBC Digital Archives: Lesson Plans for Teachers-First Nations Catch-22

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/teachers/lesson-plan/first-nations-catch-22.html>

Forgotten Warriors Documentary, NFB

*DVD available from Secondary Aboriginal Resource Teachers and at the DLRC (V 940.5403 FOR)

Canada History: Native Soldiers, Foreign Battlefields-The Wartime Contribution of Canada's First Peoples

<http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/documents/Native/docsnativesoldiers.htm>

Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow Canada's Most Decorated First Nation Soldier And World War I's Top Sniper (PDF)

<https://www.friends-amis.org/index.php/en/document-repository/english/fact-sheets/197-pegahmagabow/file>



Exploratory Topics to further First Nations Perspectives for SS 11 objectives:

- assess Canada's role in World War I and the war's impact on Canada
- assess Canada's role in World War II and the war's impact on Canada

1. Contributions

- largest group to serve (over 4000+) for WW1, 1:3 able bodied men volunteered, some reserves saw every single man signed up, \$44000 donated to war relief, 300 soldiers died
- WW2-3000+ men and women served, raised \$23000, 200 soldiers died
- increased agricultural output to help with food supplies
- wrote letters
- patrolled the west coast for signs of Japanese invaders
- reserve lands were 'borrowed' to use as airports, rifle ranges, and defense posts (a lot of 'borrowed' land was never returned)

2. Reasons for Enlistment

- similar to non-First Nations people (patriotism, wage, desire for adventure)
- deeper connection to Land (stewardship)
- need to protect Treaty Rights
- Loyalty to the Crown/treaty contracts-"Our treaties are with the crown, so when the crown calls, you go"
- traditional warrior values-protection of family, community, and land
- traditional hunting and tracking Skills

3. Pre and Post War Challenges

- after conscription was introduced, First Nations people were exempt but many continued to volunteer even though they risked loss of status rights
- could not access full Veterans benefits package because of the Indian Act, First Nations status people could not own land or borrow money
- Spread of diseases-TB and Spanish Influenza to other community members

Some Ways to Consider...

- Research of Famous Soldiers-add several notable Aboriginal Soldiers

Cpl. Francis "Peggy" Pegahmagabow
Sgt. Tommy Prince
Tom Longboat
Henry Louis Norwest
Edith Anderson Monture

- Question and Booklet homework...create questions using information from one of the websites and have students search for the answers
- Bulletin Boards-Include pictures of Aboriginal soldiers (past and present) and facts on contributions
- Essay Topics- What did it mean personally for a status First nations to enlist?