

# World War I

## Activity # 6: "Paying for a War"

1. **Your Prediction:** Between 1914 - 1918, I think it would have cost the Canadian Government \$\_\_\_\_\_ just to outfit (give basic supplies to) all its soldiers.

**Fact # 1: "It cost \$155.00 to outfit a soldier to serve in France." \***

The chart below shows how many men were sent by Canada to serve in World War I. Answer the following questions with the aid of the chart and the information from fact # 1. ( You may need to use a calculator!)

### Troop Movements to Europe

1914 .....	30,999
1915 .....	84,334
1916 .....	165,553
1917 .....	63,536
1918 .....	73,630
Total .....	418,052

1. What were the actual costs to outfit Canada's soldiers to serve in Europe during World War I?

In 1914? \_\_\_\_\_ **HINT:** 30,999 X \$155.00

In 1915? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1916? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1917? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1918? \_\_\_\_\_

The total cost just to outfit Canadian soldiers during World War I was \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Was your prediction higher or lower than the actual costs? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the difference in amounts between your prediction and the actual cost?

**II. Your Prediction:** I think the five most important supplies of a WWI Canadian soldier pack would be:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Fact # 2:** “The total weight of a soldier’s pack including clothing, ammunition, tools, toilet articles, rations and water is approximately 60 pounds.” The list below shows the basic supplies needed. \* Using the list, answer the questions on the following page.

**What 500,000 soldiers need**

- 400,000 rifles and bayonets
- 4,000 machine guns
- 1,100 field guns
- 80,000,000 cartridges for each battle
- 1,250,000 shells and shrapnel per hour
- 100,000 horses
- 65,000 mules
- 4,000 wagons and trucks
- 500,000 first-aid packets
- 500,000 canteens
- 1,000,000 uniforms - coats, breeches, puttees, underwear, belts
- 500,000 caps
- 500,000 steel helmets
- 500,000 gas masks
- 1,000,000 pairs of leather boots
- 500,000 pairs of rubber boots
- 500,000 haversacks
- 500,000 rubber ground-sheets, to keep them dry
- 1,000,000 blankets
- 2,000,000 pairs of socks
- 500,000 lbs. of meat per day
- 500,000 lbs. of bread per day
- 250,000 lbs. of vegetables per day
- 1,000,000 pints of tea or coffee per day
- 500,000 cups
- 500,000 plates
- 500,000 knives
- 500,000 forks
- 500,000 spoons

1. How would the need for supplies affect production in Canada's factories and on its farms?
  
2. How do you think the supplies were transported to the Western Front?
  
3. What problems may have been encountered with the transportation of these supplies?
  
4. The following statements are all directed to the people of Canada who were not serving overseas. Analyze these statements by telling how each would affect the people on the homefront in Canada as well as the Canadian soldiers serving overseas.

a) "We must produce all we can, waste nothing and shift our consumption as much as practicable from wheat, flour, beef and bacon to other foods. The other foods are just as wholesome for us but are not as suitable for shipment overseas in wartime."

Effect on people on the homefront: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Effect on the soldiers and the war effort: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

b) "... the outcome of the war must be decided in the kitchens of Canada."

Effect on people on the homefront: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Effect on the soldiers and the war effort: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

c) "A ton of coal is needed to produce three big shells."

Effect on people on the homefront: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Effect on the soldiers and the war effort: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Fact # 3: “During 1918 the war cost Canada over one million dollars per day.” \***

**Fact # 4: Canadians paid for the costs of World War I through savings bonds, taxes, and donations.**

Using the chart below, answer the following questions.

**Canada’s Public Debt**

1911	\$350,000,000
1914	350,000,000
1915	475,000,000
1916	625,000,000
1917	900,000,000
1918	1,175,000,000

1. What was Canada’s total debt for World War I? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is there no change in Canada’s debt for the years 1911 and 1914?

3. What can be said about Canada’s debt between the years 1914 - 1918?

4a) In which year is Canada’s debt the highest during WWI? \_\_\_\_\_

b) A reason for the high debt that year could be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. The following statement concerns the Canadian government’s need to pay for WWI.  
“Every man and woman in Canada can help win this war by practising self-denial...”  
What does this mean?

6. If Canada were involved in a war now, what could you do to help pay for it?

\* from **Canadiana Scrapbook: Canadians at war 1914 - 1918** by Donald M. Santor