Thinking Like a Historian: Unit Overview

CHC2D, Canadian History since World War I, Grade 10 (Academic), Unit 1. 5 classes of 75 minutes (about one week), plus time to complete the summative.

The big question

How do historians turn scattered evidence into a story we can trust?

Students learn what history is and who tells it, the five types of inquiry questions, the difference between primary and secondary sources, a five-question source check, the four concepts of historical thinking (significance, cause and consequence, continuity and change, perspective) and strategies for reading diaries, notices, photos and statistics. They investigate an invented town's experience of the 1918 influenza, compare two news reports to see how history skills apply to current issues, and link those skills to careers. The summative, Source Detective, asks them to analyse five sources on how Canadians reacted to the start of World War I.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**What Is History?**	1	What is history, and who tells it?	A1.1, A1.5, A2.1	Past vs history; five question types; missing voices
2	**Primary and Secondary Sources**	1	Where does evidence come from?	A1.2, A1.3, A1.8	Source sort; five-question source check; citations
3	**Historical Thinking**	1	How do historians think?	A1.5, A1.4, A1.9	Four concepts; the Halifax Explosion; 2020 closures
4	**Reading the Evidence**	1	How do we combine sources?	A1.4, A1.3, A1.6	See, Think, Wonder; data; Cedar Falls 1918 source set
5	**Historians at Work**	1	Why do history skills matter?	A1.7, A2.2, A2.3, A2.4	Two news reports; essential skills; careers; summative launch

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Question Sort, Source Sort, Source Check, Concept Match, Evidence to Conclusion, Two Reports, exit tickets
Assessment as learning	Self-checks on success criteria, Skills and Careers reflection
Assessment of learning	Source Detective: August 1914 (5% of the final grade), with a four-level rubric and teacher guide

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Sources

Included:

- **Original practice sources:** an invented recruiting poster, a 1917 diary, a Vimy anniversary article, the Cedar Falls 1918 source set (diary, notice, data, photo description), two news reports and the five August 1914 sources
- **Teacher choice (optional):** real archival photographs from Library and Archives Canada or a provincial archive in place of the photo description

Invented sources are labelled on every handout. They are based on real events, and every historical fact in the unit is accurate. Be sensitive in Lesson 3: students may have had difficult experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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