

The World Comes to Huron County

Exploring the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during World War II

Objectives of the Program

Curriculum Focus

Social Studies: Grade 6

Strand A Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, Past and Present

A2. Inquiry: The Perspectives of Diverse Communities

Strand B People & Environments: Canada's Interactions with the Global Community

B3. Understanding Context: Canada's Global Interactions

Overall Expectations

Students will be able to identify and locate on a map countries and regions that were involved in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) during World War II and make comparisons to how Canada interacts with other nations of the world today. They will learn about the four training schools that were established in Huron County as a result of the BCATP. Students will explain why Canada was selected to be a centre for training. They will discuss what it must have been like for someone to travel to Canada, specifically Huron County, for the first time. They will also use primary sources like photographs and letters to gather knowledge about Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force training schools in Huron County.

Required Resources

Materials:

Two copies of the world map for each student

One copy of KWL Chart for each student

Pencil Crayons (for colouring the map)

Computer with access to the internet for each student or they may work in pairs

[Huron County Archives Online Catalogue](#)

Teacher Manual

Teacher Preparation

1. Visit the [website](#) to get the necessary information about the [British Commonwealth Air Training Plan](#) and the training schools in Huron County. If necessary conduct more in-depth research using the [Additional Resources](#) section.
2. Print out one copy of the KWL Chart for each student.
3. Print out two copies of the world map for each student.

Procedure

1. Give each student one copy of the KWL Chart. Have students fill out “What I Know” and “What I Want to Know” columns and have students write what they already know and what they want to know about the British Commonwealth, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, and the Second World War.
2. Start a discussion about Canada’s role in World War II. Ask what students know about the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP).

Sample questions: What is the British Commonwealth? Are you aware that there were four training schools in Huron County during WWII that were attended by people who came from all over the world? Why do you think Canada was selected as the main country to establish training schools, as opposed to other Commonwealth countries like Australia or New Zealand?

3. Give each student one copy of the world map print out. Have students conduct research to identify current Commonwealth Countries. They are to identify the country and colour it in on the map. They can hand it in for assessment.
4. Have students explore the online Henderson Collections database. Let students browse the website looking at pictures of airmen and read about the BCATP and training schools. Encourage them to use the search function to locate different countries such as New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.
5. Give each student a copy of the map and have them search the site looking for airmen from different countries. They are to identify the country and colour it in on the map. These men can be identified by the badges they wear and in the description of the photograph. Students should be able to locate individuals from Canada, Britain, United States of America, New Zealand, Australia, Barbados, and Czechoslovakia.
6. Take up the assignment by asking the students which countries they have coloured in. Were there any countries which they could not locate on the map?

For example, Czechoslovakia is now part of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

7. Discuss what they have learned.

Sample questions: Which countries were on the Allied side during World War II? Were these countries part of the BCATP? Is the United States part of the Commonwealth? Why or why not? What must it have been like for men from other countries to come to Canada for the first time?

8. Have students complete the KWL Chart, filling out the “What I Learned” column with what they have learned. Hand it in for assessment.
9. Have students answer a final reflection question, which will be submitted for assessment: Does Canada still have links with the same nations it collaborated with during the Second World War? Why or why not? And in what way?

Vocabulary

British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) – An agreement signed between Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Australia on December 17, 1939 to increase the number of pilots, navigators, bomb-aimers, wireless operators, air gunners, and flight engineers required for World War II.

Commonwealth – Also known as the Commonwealth of Nations or British Commonwealth. Is an intergovernmental organization of 53 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire.

Royal Air Force – Aerial warfare service branch of the British Armed Forces.

Royal Canadian Air Force – A division of the Canadian Forces responsible for all aircraft operations. Granted royal sanction in 1924 by King George V.

World War II – Lasting from 1939 to 1945, it was a war that involved the majority of the world’s nations.

Fleet Air Arm – As a branch of the British Royal Navy, the Fleet Air Arm operated both aircraft on ships and land-based aircraft that defended the Royal Navy’s shore establishments and facilities.

Elementary Flying Training School – A school to teach men how to fly airplanes in preparation for eventual duty overseas. Many schools were established across Canada as part of the BCATP. No. 12 Elementary Flying Training School opened in October 1940 near Goderich, Ontario and was run by civilian instructors.

Air Navigation School – A school that taught students how to navigate airplanes using compasses and landmarks. No. 31 Air Navigation School operated in Port Albert, Ontario after being re-located from St. Athens, Wales in October 1940.

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CATEGORIES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<p>Understanding of Concepts</p> <p>Analyse, classify, and interpret information</p> <p>Use a variety of sources to locate relevant information</p> <p>Use base maps and a variety of information sources to sketch the relative position of places</p>	<p>Demonstrates limited ability to analyse, classify, and interpret information</p> <p>Uses a limited variety of sources to locate relevant information</p> <p>Use base maps and a variety of information sources to sketch the relative position of places, with assistance</p>	<p>Demonstrates some ability to analyse, classify, and interpret information</p> <p>Uses an adequate variety of sources to locate relevant information</p> <p>Adequately uses base maps and a variety of information sources to sketch the relative position of places</p>	<p>Demonstrates considerable ability to analyse, classify, and interpret information</p> <p>Uses a good variety of sources to locate relevant information</p> <p>Competently uses base maps and a variety of information sources to sketch the relative position of places</p>	<p>Demonstrates exceptional ability to analyse, classify, and interpret information</p> <p>Uses a wide variety of sources to locate relevant information</p> <p>Expertly uses base maps and a variety of information sources to sketch the relative position of places</p>
<p>Thinking</p> <p>Demonstrates knowledge of topic</p>	<p>Demonstrates limited knowledge of topic</p>	<p>Demonstrates some knowledge of topic</p>	<p>Demonstrates considerable knowledge of topic</p>	<p>Demonstrates thorough knowledge of topic</p>
<p>Communication</p> <p>Communicates information</p> <p>Uses appropriate vocabulary</p>	<p>Communicates information with limited clarity</p> <p>Rarely uses appropriate vocabulary</p>	<p>Communicates information with some clarity</p> <p>Occasionally uses appropriate vocabulary</p>	<p>Communicates information with good clarity</p> <p>Often uses appropriate vocabulary</p>	<p>Communicates information with excellent clarity</p> <p>Almost or almost always uses appropriate vocabulary</p>

CATEGORIES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Application Identify some countries with which Canada has links Apply knowledge of topic to task	Identifies some countries with which Canada has links with limited success Rarely applies knowledge of topic to task	Identifies some countries with which Canada has links with some success Sometimes applies knowledge of topic to task	Identifies some countries with which Canada has links with considerable success Often applies knowledge of topic to task	Identifies some countries with which Canada has links with excellent success Always or almost always applies knowledge of topic to task

Name: _____ Date: _____

KWL Chart

In the first column, write what you already know about the British Commonwealth, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, and World War II. In the second column, write what you want to know about the British Commonwealth and the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. After you have completed your research, write what you learned in the third column.

WHAT I KNOW	WHAT I WANT TO KNOW	WHAT I LEARNED

