

VIMY 100 IN THE CLASSROOM



With the support from
Tim Hortons

AIR POWER GREATEST WEAPONS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Air power played an important role during the First World War, becoming one of the greatest weapons of the conflict. However, air power in 1914 was very different from what we know today. At the outbreak of the First World War, the world had only just begun to experiment with flight and many, including military planners, believed it had little strategic value.

THINK-PUZZLE-EXPLORE

Engage in the following thinking routine as an introduction to the topic of air power during the First World War. Individually, with a partner, or in small groups, answer the following questions. Make sure to answer question one **before watching** the Vimy 100 in the Classroom [video](#).



1. Think: What do you know about the use of airplanes in the First World War? Consider what you may have already learned in past courses, read in books, seen in movies, etc.

2. Puzzle: After watching the video on **Air Power in the First World War**, what questions or puzzles do you now have? What do you wonder about this topic? What would be interesting to learn more about?

3. Explore: How can you explore these questions? Choose one of the things about which you are curious and consider how you could learn about it. Where could you get more information? What keywords would help with your search?

Extension: Do the research to explore the question(s) or topic(s) about which you are interested. Prepare a one or two-minute presentation and share your findings with your classmates. **Note:** Ask around to see if any of your classmates are interested in a similar topic as yourself, you can team up and prepare your presentation together.

EVOLUTION OF AIR POWER

As the video explains, the use of aircraft during the First World War evolved over time. Initially airplanes were used for reconnaissance purposes before moving into performing scouting roles and finally engaging in warfare in the sky through dogfights. Create a general timeline that tracks this evolution. You can complete this timeline individually or divide up the various stages of development with your classmates. The Canadian Encyclopedia has a very informative section entitled [“The Great War in the Air”](#) that would be a very useful resource.

Photo: Pilot Ascoti, Chief Engineer F.G. Ericson and Pilot Webster, ready for Test of first Canadian J.N. 4 Machine. Canadian Aeroplanes Ltd., Toronto, 1917. Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-025174 (modified from the original)