

Lesson Plan: For Teachers: Was Dieppe Worthwhile?

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/teachers/lesson-plan/was-dieppe-worthwhile.html>

Type:

Webquest

Subjects:

History

Duration:

2 to 3 lessons

Purpose:

To support an argument in debate; to analyze the pros and cons of the Dieppe raid

Summary:

Using a variety of web-based resources, students examine the ongoing historical controversy surrounding the raid at Dieppe and will debate whether the raid was worthwhile for the eventual information it provided.

Lesson Plan

Introduction

The Dieppe raid of August 1942 remains one of the most controversial Canadian military operations in history. Books and other media have posed serious questions about its planning, execution, and results. Many historians question the wisdom of the operation, believing it to have been a serious misjudgement resulting in considerable loss of life for no real benefit. Defenders of the raid argue that although it was a military failure, the lessons learned from it helped in the planning of the ultimately successful D-Day invasion of France two years later. The ongoing debate over Dieppe shows no signs of ending. Despite official federal recognition of those who fought in the operation as a special class of Canadian veterans, opinion on this event remains as bitterly divided today as in the aftermath of the raid itself over 60 years ago.

The Task

Students will research both sides of the ongoing historical controversy over the wisdom of the Dieppe operation of 1942 and conduct a debate on the resolution: Resolved that the Canadian loss of life during the Dieppe operation of August 1942 was too great a price to pay for any strategic information about German defences that might have been obtained from it.

The Process

Have students work in groups or teams, with each team taking either an affirmative or negative position on the resolution. Each group will review the relevant information on the topic **The Contentious Legacy of Dieppe** on the CBC Digital Archives website, and by examining other resources listed below. Each group will select various aspects of the topic as a focus for its speakers in order to present the position most effectively.

Conclusion

The debate can be organized as a tag team, enabling all members of each team to have the opportunity to present their arguments. After the debate, ask the class to vote to reach a consensus about who has presented a more convincing set of arguments.

Resources for this Topic

Print

Ford, Ken. *Dieppe 1942: Prelude to D-Day*. Oxford: Osprey Publications, 2003.
Greenhouse, Brereton. *Dieppe, Dieppe*. Montreal: Art Global, 1992.

Neillands, Robert. *The Dieppe Raid: The Story of the Disastrous 1942 Expedition*. Bloomington IN: Indiana UP, 2005.

Robertson, Terence. *Dieppe: The Shame and the Glory*. London: Hutchinson, 1963.

Villa, Brian Loring. *Unauthorized Action: Mountbatten and the Dieppe Raid*. Oxford and Toronto: Oxford UP, 1994.

Video

Dieppe. (Morningstar Entertainment and CBC: 1993).

The End of the Beginning, 1942. (Norflicks Productions: 1995).