Leading up to the War...

- In 1911, Laurier and the Liberal Party lost the Federal election to Robert Borden and the Conservative Party.
- Laurier wanted freer trade (which American annexationists liked)
- Borden campaigned with the slogan “No Truck nor Trade with the Yankees”
- Borden was stiff and unyielding in comparison to Laurier
- He is seen by many as the most important Prime Minister in helping create Canadian political independence.
- The opposite can be said for Canadian internal relations during his stay in office.
Timeline!

- Put the events in chronological order.
Video

- What are the two points from Austria-Hungary’s ultimatum mentioned? What was Serbia’s response? Was it seen as acceptable or not? By whom?
- Who declared war on whom first? When?
The Sparks

- Imperialism to the extreme.
- The networks of imperial alliances of Europe made it a “powder keg” - one spark and it would explode.
- Austria declared war on Serbia, Russia declared war on Austria, Germany declared war on Russia (and then invaded France via neutral Belgium) and as a result, Britain declared war on Germany.
- Being part of the British Empire, Canada was automatically drug into this messy war.
- TWO main Alliances:
  - Triple Entente: Great Britain, France and Russia
  - Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy
“Back by Christmas!”

- Many assumed the war would be quick
- At first - the war united Canada
- Due to the above, the war was met with enthusiasm by many in Canada
- Sam Hughes - Minister of Militia
- Over 30,000 men volunteered at the onset of WWI. ⅔ of these men were recent British immigrants
- Ross rifle - Canadian gun built for precision. Jammed, overheated, filled with mud
- The First Canadian Expeditionary Force was sent to England for training in Oct. 1914
- 9 months training on Salisbury Plain - enough?
Trench Warfare and a War of Attrition

- Western Front - intricate system of trenches
- Between trenches (of opposite sides of the war) was “no-man’s land” which was marked by barbed wire and filled with landmines
- Those who attempted to cross were bombarded
- Trenches were dirty, muddy, dangerous, cold, etc.
- Many soldiers suffered from “trench foot”
- Soon after the start of the war, it became a war of attrition - a waiting game
- Over the next 3 years there were multiple battles with many casualties all over mere kilometres of land
Soldier Gregory Clark (later journalist)

“They speak of trenches. Trenches is too romantic a name. They were ditches, common ordinary ditches. As time went by they became filthy. We had no garbage disposal, no sewage disposal. You would dig a little trench off of the main trench, dig a deep hole and that was your latrine...it was in that sort of setting men lived as if it were the way men should live, year after year...There was nothing in it except rats, by the countless millions. Wherever you went, in the daylight, as night, the whole place was squeaking and squealing with these huge and monstrous rats...That added that added the last mad feature.”
The Battle of Ypres

- In Belgium - April 1915
- April 22 - Germans released 5,700 cylinders of chlorine gas and the French army was pushed out. Canadian troops rushed in to hold off the German advance
- April 24 - Germans released a second gas attack directly on the Canadians
- Canadians used mud and urine soaked handkerchiefs to cover their noses and mouths to keep from breathing in the gas
- They held the line until reinforcements arrived
- In 48 hours - 6,035 casualties
- Canadians proved their skill and endurance at Ypres
The Battle of the Somme

- 1916 - In an attempt to break the stalemate, the Allies planned an attack near the Somme River.
- 100,000 men were mobilized - 57,500 were lost, wounded or missing in one day
- 1st Newfoundland Regiment - 790 men. 68 answered roll call the next day
- Over three months, 600,000 Casualties (24,029 Canadians) at the Somme for 6 miles of land - war of attrition
Vimy Ridge

- High ground in France. The Germans had made tunnels, trenches, rail lines, and even had telephone lines and electricity
- The British and French and both tried but failed to take the Ridge.
- Canada prepared thoroughly - practiced, learned how to use German artillery
- Canadian colonel Andrew McNaughton learned the sounds and flash of enemy guns - why?
- April 9, 1917 - All 4 Canadian divisions fought together using the “creeping barrage”
- The Canadians succeeded. This is often regarded as a nation building moment
Passchendaele

- Muddy and wet, which was hard to navigate.
- Arthur Currie - made boardwalks to make it navigable.
- Canada did not agree with this battle and saw it as pointless.
Historical Significance Options

Clifford Sifton
Manitoba Schools Question
“Sunny Ways”

Vimy Ridge
War Measures Act
Conscription
Essay Questions

- The factors which contributed to the immigration in Canada and its subsequent impact
- The revisions of Canada’s immigration policies, the types of immigrants the Canadian government sought to attract at the end of the 19th century, and the strategies used to attract them
- The manner in which industrialization and urbanization transformed Canada
- The two forms of Canadian Nationalism as a response to British Imperialism and the American Manifest Destiny
- The role and extent of Canadian participation in the First World War
- The internal turmoil caused by Canada’s participation in WWI
- The full political maturing of Canada due to participation in WWI
- The ways in which WWI altered Canadians’ self-image