

VIMY 100 IN THE CLASSROOM



THE VIMY FOUNDATION
LA FONDATION VIMY

With the support from

Tim Hortons

VIMY AS A SYMBOL

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is one of the most impressive monuments to the First World in all of Europe. Unveiled in 1936 by King Edward VIII, he said at the time that, "It is an inspired expression in stone, chiselled by a skillful Canadian hand, of Canada's salute to her fallen sons. It marks the scene of feats of arms, which history will long remember and Canada can never forget."



L: "H.M. King Edward VIII unveiling the figure of Canada on the Vimy Ridge Memorial." 26 July 1936. Vimy Ridge, France. Cdn. Govt. Motion Pict. Bureau/National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque/National Archives of Canada. Accession number PA-148880.

R: "Looking up at the Vimy Memorial". 9 April 2014. Bob Barrett for the Vimy Foundation.

Since the monument's opening in 1936, it has become an iconic symbol of Canadian war and remembrance. In this activity you will need to do a quick internet search to find the examples listed below where the monument has appeared as a unique symbol. Make a bingo card with the following squares. Find examples of the following and copy and paste the pictures on your card.

1. Postage Stamp
2. Five cent coin
3. \$20 bill
4. Canadian passport
5. Painting
6. Lapel pin

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WRITTEN RESPONSES

After completing your search and collecting your images, answer the following questions by either writing brief responses or discussing in small groups:

1. Why do you think the Canadian government chose to put Vimy on the \$20 bill and inside the country's passport?
2. If you had to choose another symbol from the First World War, what would you choose?
3. If many publications speak of the Vimy monument as iconic and being a key piece of Canada's First World War history, how would you explain the results of a 2016 poll that showed only 12% of Canadians could identify the monument? What could be done to increase awareness of it?

ARTISTIC RESPONSE

The Vimy monument is a work of art. The structure was designed by Toronto architect and sculptor Walter Allward after a competition held in the early 1920s. Take a look at different pictures of the monument and respond with a piece of poetry inspired by it. Alternatively, make a painting or sketch of the memorial itself.