

War Memories across Canada Conversation Kit:

Next Steps to Win the War Quebec Conference 1943 Quebec City, Quebec



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In August 1943, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill held a weeklong conference that ultimately changed the direction of the Second World War. Together with the host, Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie, the top-secret discussion sessions were held in Quebec City.

Hundreds of leaders from all over the world attended the Quebec Conference, which was codenamed QUADRANT. A year later, Roosevelt and Churchill attended a second Quebec Conference, codenamed OCTAGON, again hosted by Mackenzie King.

Discussion Questions:

At the Quebec Conference, Canada's role was as a host, rather than full participant. Why do you think the conference took place in Canada? What did this say about Canada's role in the Second World War and how do we speak of Canada's participation today?

At the first Quebec conference, Britain and the United States signed an agreement to work together to develop the atomic bomb—with a pact that they would never use it against each other. Canada ultimately became involved in this secret project as a supplier of materials and scientific knowledge. Was that the right thing to do?

Before President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill arrived in Quebec City for the Quebec Conference, their visit was a highly kept secret. After arriving they travelled through the city waving to citizens in open cars. There were social events in their honour at the Chateau Laurier Hotel and a number of public appearances. Do you think this would happen today? How do you think public access to world leaders has changed since then? Do you think local residents have the opportunity to wave to an American president and British prime minister travelling together through the streets today?

Activities:

Visit the Citadelle of Québec and the Royal 22nd Regiment Museum in Quebec City, if possible. If not, visit a military or regimental museum in your own community.

Many of the social events during the Quebec Conference took place at the Chateau Frontenac Hotel. It is one of a series of hotels built and operated by Canadian Pacific Railway beginning in the late-1800s. These hotels, along with those built by Canadian National Railway, played significant roles in Canada's history. Visit the Chateau



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Frontenac, or a historic railway hotel nearest your home. What role did the hotel play in the community's history or during wartime?

Research the evolving relationships between Canada, the United States and Britain from the First World War until today. Which country was seen as most powerful during times of war? How has the balance of power shifted through the decades?

Resources:

Websites

1943: Churchill, Roosevelt and King meet in Quebec – CBC Digital Archives

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/entry/1943-churchill-roosevelt-and-king-meet-in-quebec>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

<https://fdrlibrary.org/>

The FDR Library has many online resources including links to information about the Second World War.

Québec Citadel National Historic Site of Canada

<http://www.lacitadelle.qc.ca/en/>
[En français](#)

The Churchill Centre

<http://www.winstonchurchill.org/>

Resources related to Winston Churchill including a [newsreel video archive](#).

Videos

Quebec Conference 1943 - FDR Presidential Library (newsreel footage)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh-uyTGLDWc>

Books

Canadian Pacific: the golden age of travel, by Barry Lane. Goose Lane, 2015.

Roosevelt and Churchill: men of secrets, by David Stafford. Overlook Press, 2011.

War summits: the meetings that shaped World War II and the postwar world, by David Stone. Potomac Books, 2005.

Winston Churchill and Mackenzie King: so similar, so different, by Terry Reardon. Dundurn Press, 2012.

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