

## Lest We Forget and How We Remember

**Subject:** Social Studies and English Language Arts

**Grades:** 1 – 6

We can learn about and better understand history by exploring the lives of everyday people from the past. Studying the experiences of one person or family who lived through significant historical events — such as war — can help us see how the past connects to today.

Use this video to complement the study of First World War. Also examine how primary sources and archival photos from Calgary Public Library's Calgary's Story collection tell the story of Joseph Convery, a Calgary resident who enlisted as a soldier.

### Learning Outcomes

- Look at photographs and video to construct meaning from historical information and local events.
- Practise perspective-taking skills to deepen understanding of historical events and figures.
- Practise critical thinking and visual literacy skills.
- Learn about Calgary Public Library's local history collection as a trusted source for research.
- Show understanding through figurative language in a haiku poem and in imaginative letter-writing.

### Activities



Watch the Full Lest We Forget and How We Remember Video  
**Length: 4 minutes**

[calgarylibrary.ca/how-we-remember](http://calgarylibrary.ca/how-we-remember)



### What is Historical Thinking and Why is it Important?

Historical thinking is a form of critical thinking that helps us learn from the past. By asking thoughtful questions, examining evidence, and considering different perspectives, we can better understand people's experiences.

**Consider and discuss these questions after watching Joseph's video.**

1. Whose story are we hearing?
2. Whose story are we missing? What would that person have to say?
3. The postcards in the video show a very different Calgary than the one we know today. How was Calgary in the past different from Calgary today? In what ways has it stayed the same?
4. The Canadian Government used posters to encourage people from Europe to move and settle in Canada. Looking closely at the posters for clues, what do they say about Canada — especially Western Canada — and what life was like there? How do the posters portray Canada? Are they accurate?
5. Why was flying during the war risky at that time?
6. What can we learn about peace by remembering war?

## Perspective Taking Exercise: Postcard from the Front

Soldiers often travel far from home and don't get to see their families for a long time. Understanding what a soldier goes through and how they might feel can help us become kinder, braver, and fairer.

Imagine you are a soldier during First World War. You can't talk to your family directly, but you can send them a postcard. What would you write to them?

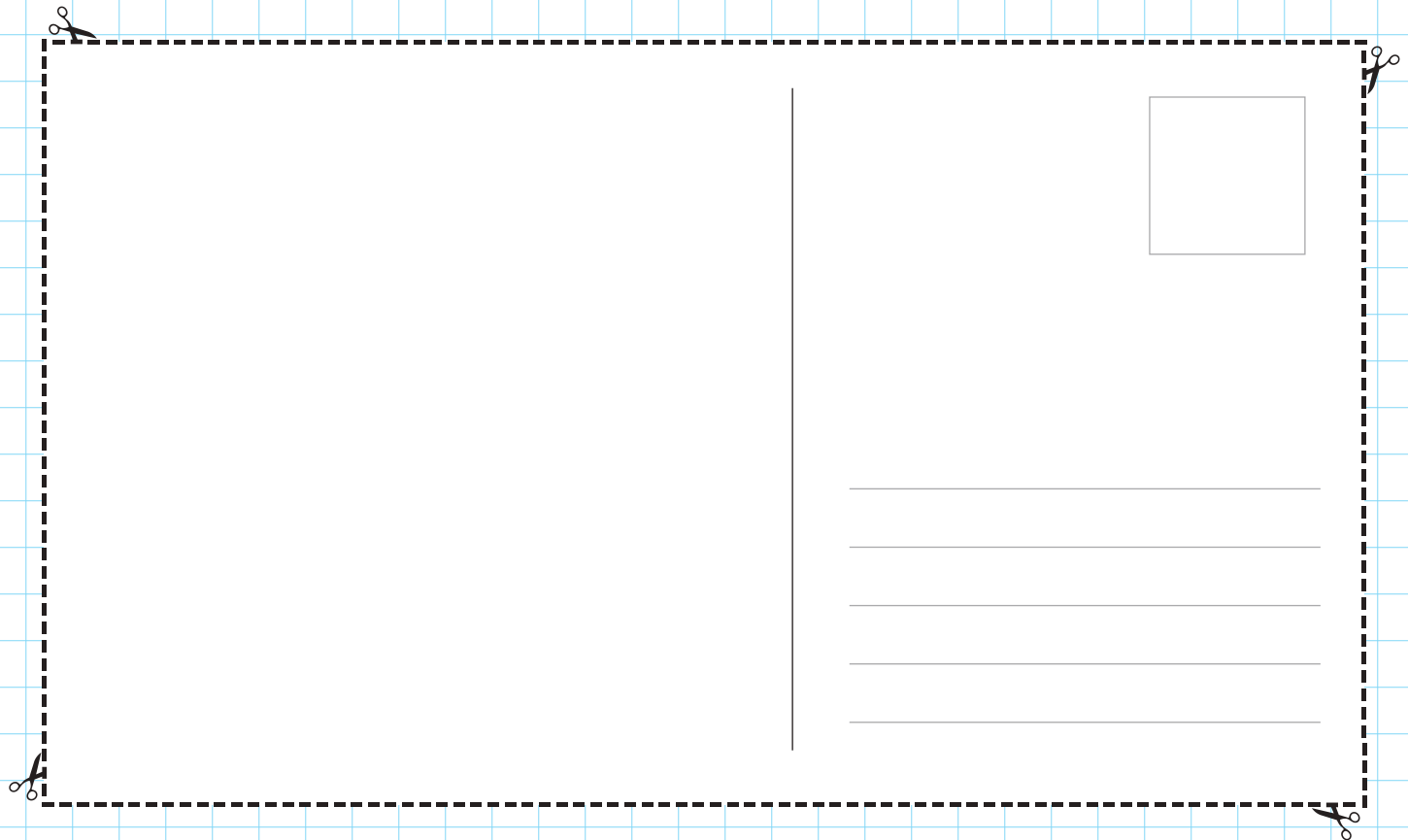
A postcard is a small card people use to mail when they are travelling or want to say hello to someone far away. It's like sending a short message with a picture on it!

Using the postcard template below, write a short message to your family.

Think about:

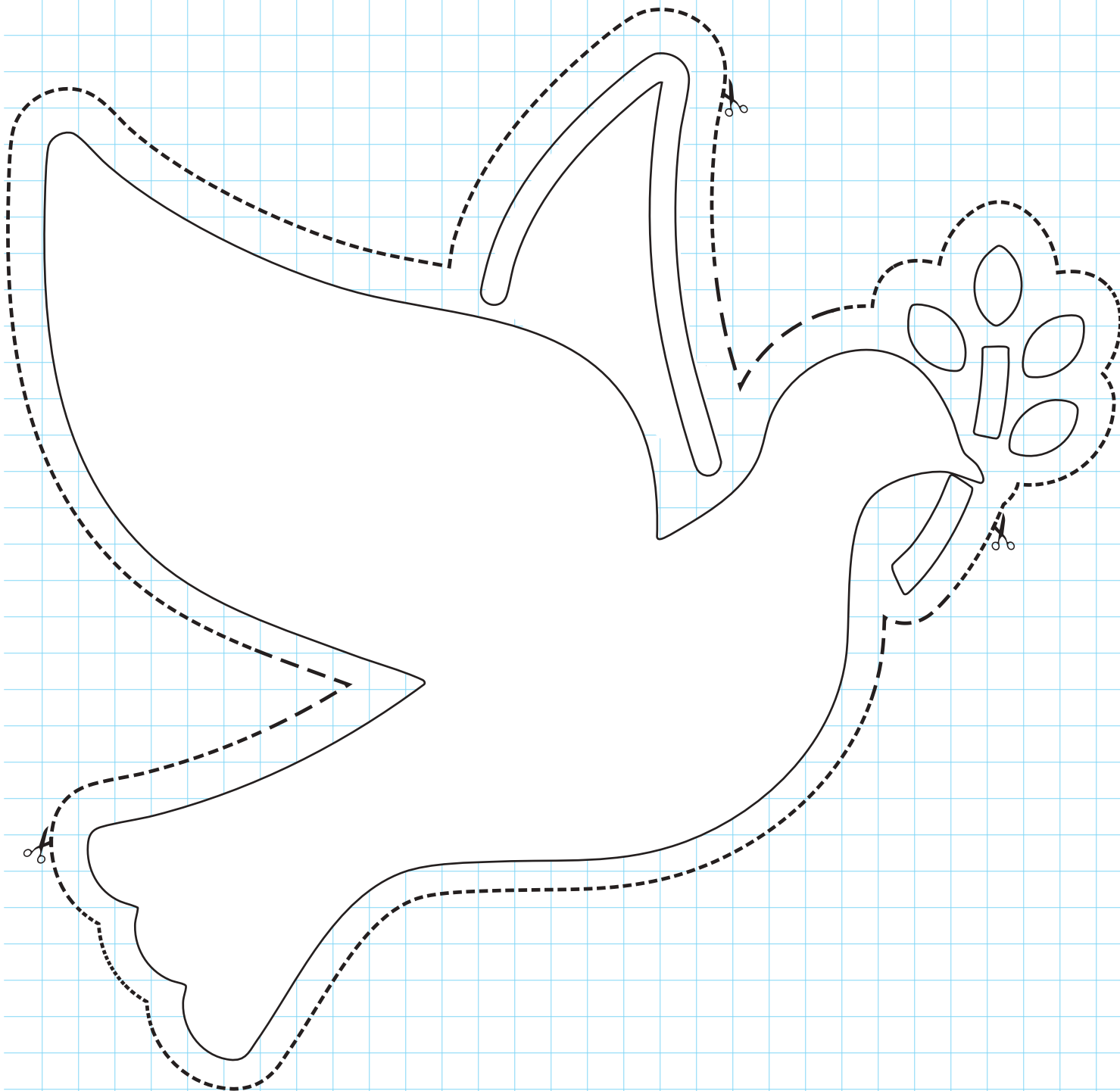
- What might this person be scared of?
- What would they want to tell their family?
- What do they miss from home?

This is the back of the postcard. You might want to cut this out and draw a picture on the front of your postcard that shows hope, peace, or understanding between the two sides. When you're finished, share your postcard with a partner or small group and talk about what message you wanted to send.



## What Does Peace Mean to You?

Cut out this dove template and write down all the words and thoughts you have about what peace means to you.



It might help to think about these questions, either as a class or on your own:

- What does peace mean to you?
- Does peace have a smell or taste?
- What makes you feel safe?
- How can we treat each other fairly?

## Moment of Reflection & Poetry

Stories about war are also about people, choices, and remembering. Here is a haiku poem by Japanese poet Matsuo Bashō about war and peace:

*The summer grass  
Is all that remains  
Of a soldier's dream.*

A haiku is a tiny poem that comes from Japan. It has only three lines and usually has an element of nature in it. Each line has a special rhythm made by syllables (the beats in words). The poem doesn't need to rhyme — it's more about how something feels.

### Traditional haiku pattern:

- The first line has five syllables
- The second line has seven syllables
- The third line has five syllables

**Note:** You don't have to follow the exact syllable count — use it as a guideline rather than a rule! Try writing your own haiku about peace:

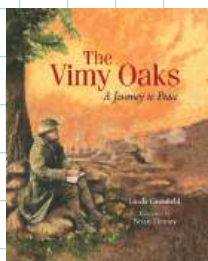
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Activities were created with the help of Peas in a Pod Collective. **For extension activities and resources check out <https://sites.google.com/view/peasinapod/home>**

For more information on history, Remembrance Day, and finding peace, check out these **book read-alikes**.



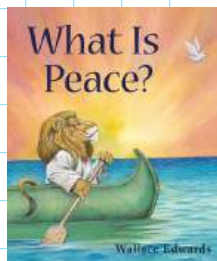
PLACE



HOLD

[calgarylibrary.ca/granfield](http://calgarylibrary.ca/granfield)

Explores the symbolic planting of oaks to commemorate Canadian soldiers and the pursuit of peace.



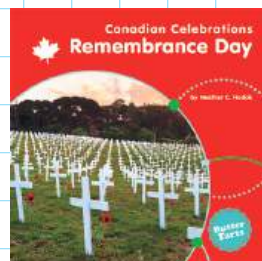
PLACE



HOLD

[calgarylibrary.ca/edwards](http://calgarylibrary.ca/edwards)

Introduces children to the meaning and importance of peace through simple, reflective explanations.



PLACE



HOLD

[calgarylibrary.ca/hudak](http://calgarylibrary.ca/hudak)

Highlights the stories and sacrifices commemorated on Remembrance Day.