

# D-Day: Saving Private Ryan

## Instructions:

Watch the opening scene of the movie *Saving Private Ryan*.

Answer the following questions.

1. Complete the prompts below.

The image shows two stick figures representing Allied soldiers. The figure on the left is labeled 'Allied soldier before the invasion'. It has a heart-shaped torso with the text 'I feel ...', a speech bubble with 'I would tell ...', and a thought bubble with 'I think ...'. The figure on the right is labeled 'Allied soldier after the invasion'. It also has a heart-shaped torso with 'I feel ...', a speech bubble with 'I would tell ...', and a thought bubble with 'I think ...'.

2. After watching the film clip, draw three (3) defences (natural or installed) that made the invasion difficult.

1.

2.

3.

3. On the rating scale below, rate the film *Saving Private Ryan* in terms of its realistic portrayal of the D-Day invasion. Mark your rating with an **X**. In one sentence, explain your rating.

Not Realistic!

Perfection!

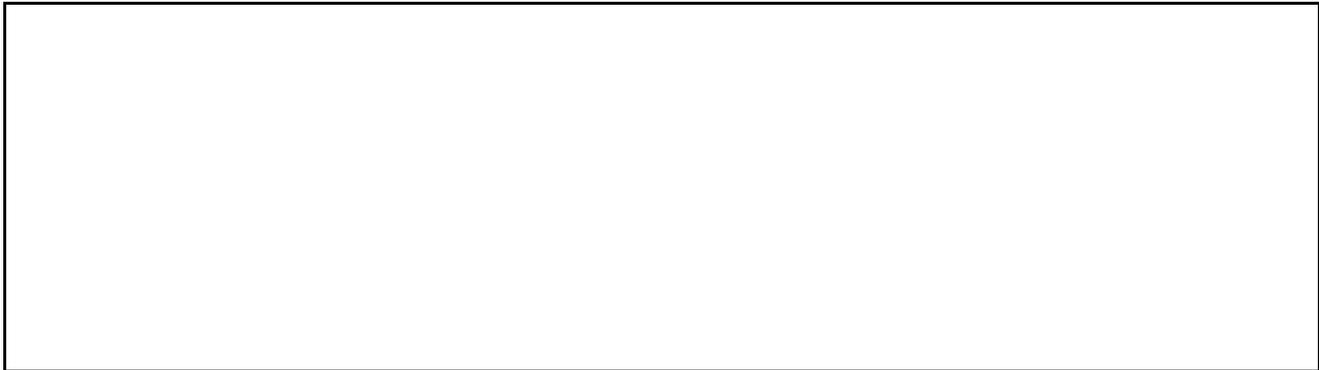
# D-Day Station #1: Medal of Honor

## Instructions:

Give each group member an opportunity to try the opening battle in the game. Keep track of the number of times each member attempts the battle.

Answer the following questions based on your experience playing and watching the game being played.

1. Draw the setting that you are faced with in the first section of the game. Use a cross-section to depict all elements of the geography.



2. Describe two (2) elements of the game that seem very real and two (2) elements that make it seem like just a game.

**Real:**

**Just a Game:**

3. (a) After each member of your group has had an opportunity to try the game, tally up how many attempts were made by the group and how many of those attempts ended in death.

3. (b) Does this number improve your understanding of the D-Day experience? Why or why not?

4. Based on your experience, identify three (3) pieces of information a student can learn about significant battles through the use of historical video games such as Medal of Honor.

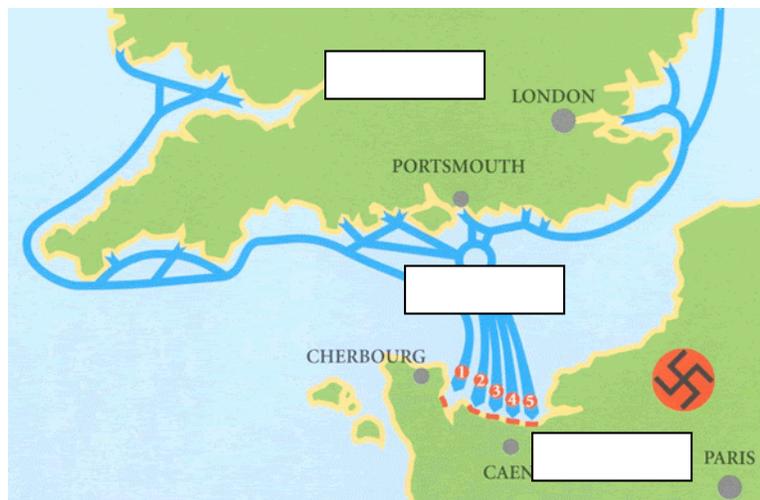
# D-Day Station #2: Canadiana Scrapbook

## Instructions:

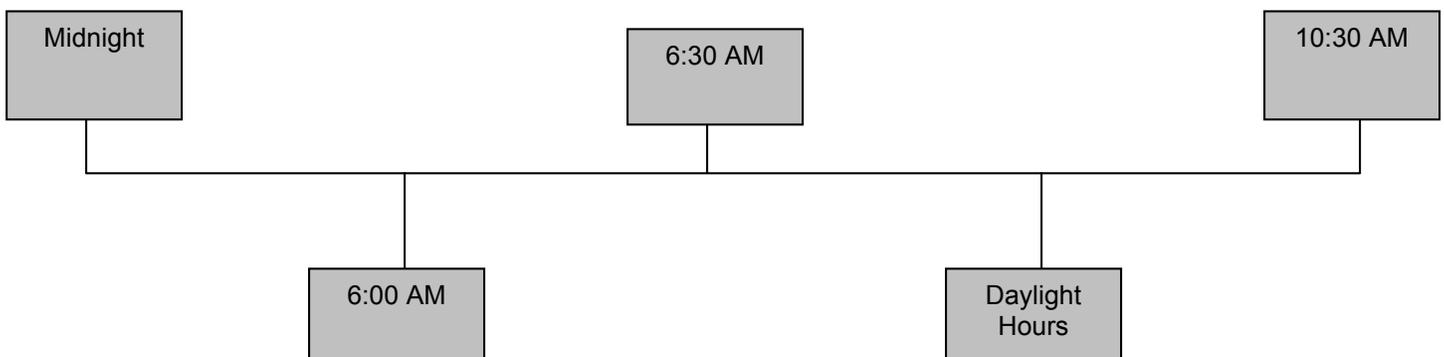
Read pages 36–37 in *Canadians at War, 1939–1945*, Canadiana Scrapbook series (see Appendix K)

Answer the following questions.

1. Look at the map in the book and identify the following on the map provided:
  - The country from which the Allies launched their invasion.
  - The country the Allies invaded.
  - The body of water the Allies crossed to reach their destination.



2. Find and record Canada's contribution to **naval power** and the **army** during the invasion.
3. Record the total number of Canadian casualties: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Review the sequence of events listed on page 37. Record the significant events on the timeline below.



# D-Day Station #3: The D-Day Experience

## Instructions:

Using primary documents found in Richard Holmes's book *The D-Day Experience* (see Appendix K), complete the following tasks.

1. Find the following information on page 30, "Juno Beach." In the chart below, fill in the information requested.

Date:

Planned hour:

### Allies

Assaulting divisions:

Division commander:

Infantry assault units:

Men landed:

Casualties (dead, wounded, missing):

### Axis

Defending division:

Division commander:

2. Read the Active Service Letter (page 31) and When You Left Your Wife (page 42). Imagine you are about to participate in the Allied invasion of France. Write a brief letter explaining to your wife how you are currently feeling and why you are writing this letter. Include an appropriate date in the top right-hand corner of the letter.

*Dear Martha,*

# D-Day Station #4: Secrets of the Dead

Instructions:

Go to the Secrets of the Dead web site at:

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/case\\_dday/pop\\_dday/defenses.swf](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/case_dday/pop_dday/defenses.swf)

(Or go to Mrs. Hall's web site, click on My Links, scroll down to CHC 2P1 and click on Secrets of the Dead – D-Day Defenses.)

Complete the following tasks.

1. The Invasion of Normandy was launched on: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Identify the German field marshall responsible for fortifying the French coastline against the Allies: \_\_\_\_\_
3. In the table below, describe each of the defences of the Atlantic wall and the countermeasure the Allies used to overcome each defence.

<b>Atlantic Wall: Six Defences</b> (Description)	<b>Allied Countermeasure</b> (Explain how the Allies overcame each defence.)
<b>Teller mines attached to posts</b> description:	
<b>Hedgehogs</b> description:	
<b>Gun emplacements</b> description:	

**Teller mines hidden on beach**  
description:

**Barbed wire**  
description:

**Bridges at the back of the beaches**  
description: