Labour History Project Working People: A History of Labour in BC



**Home Front Work Front**

Film Summary: This vignette captures pieces of working life at North Vancouver’s Burrard Dry Dock during WWII, when women entered the workforce in previously unheard-of numbers.

**Curriculum Application:** Social Studies 10

Social Justice 12

**The Essential Question:** Explore the role of women in wartime industry, the effect of the wartime production on working women’s lives, and make connections to images of women in wartime propaganda. Assess how women’s work in the Second World War changed their role in society.

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What historical factors

**Summary of the Lesson Activities**

1. Focus questions for the vignette provides a short lesson option. (15 minutes)
2. Discussion and historical analysis questions for viewing additional film and visuals of women’s war work.
3. Primary source analysis activity: Photographs and discussion questions for small groups and historical analysis and discussion.
4. Primary source analysis: Wartime propaganda poster images for small group historical analysis and discussion.
5. Analyze the role of women in the Second World War, particularly in regard to wartime industries and propaganda. (Significance)
6. Compare the image and reality of women’s participation in war work. (Evidence)
7. Analyze primary sources about women’s work in the Second World War. (Inquiry processes)
8. Evaluate the legacy of women’s participation in wartime industries. (Perspective)
9. Analyze propaganda for devices, images of women/men, context, and effectiveness. (Evidence)

Learning Standards

**Materials and Resources Provided**

* [Home Front, Work Front- Working People-A History of Labour in British Columbia](https://www.knowledge.ca/program/working-people-history-labour-british-columbia/short/e25/home-front-work-front)
* Home Front, Work Front Lesson
* Lesson Activity 1: Extended Viewing
* Lesson Activity 2: Images of Women Workers
* Lesson Activity 3: Historical photographs
* Lesson Activity 4: Propaganda posters
* Appendix 1: Background Information
* Appendix 2: Additional activities and Resources

**Additional Suggested Materials**

* On the Line: A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement. World War II, pages 106-121
* These Were The Reasons: Chapter 7, Fighting for Equity
* North Vancouver Museum and Archives[**https:nvma.ca**](https://nvma.ca/north-vancouvers-wartime-shipbuilding-introduction/)A Riveted Community: North Vancouver’s Wartime Shipbuilding

**Vignette Questions**

1. What kinds of work was available to women at the Burrard Dry Dock?
2. How did the experience of working in unionized wartime industry affect women?
3. What were some of the concerns around the change to post-war work?
4. Based on what you see here, images and oral history statements, what was it like to work there? What seems to be the mood from what you can see/hear?
5. Expanded Vignette questions and activity is provided in Lesson Activity 1

**Lesson Activities**

* 1. Expanded viewing activity for the vignette; Lesson Activity 1
  2. Discussion guides and links to documentary films on Rosie the Riveter and Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl Lesson Activity 2
  3. Historical photograph analysis activity: Lesson Activity 3
  4. Brief notes for the teacher on women’s war work Appendix 1
  5. Activity and handouts for analyzing Second World War propaganda posters; Lesson Activity 4
  6. Suggestions for extended activities and additional resources; Appendix 2

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by Sarah Purdy