



Beaumont Hamel Fact Sheet

Grade 8 Socials

Answer Key

Use pages 131-132 and in-class discussion to complete the following facts about Beaumont Hamel.

1. Date of Beaumont Hamel: **July 1st, 1916**
2. Country the Battle was fought in: **France**
3. Name of the larger battle Beaumont Hamel was a part of: **The Battle of the Somme**
4. Newfoundland military group in the Battle: **The Newfoundland Regiment**
5. Time of day they were they ordered out of their trenches: **9:15 a.m.**
6. How long the Battle lasted: **30 minutes**
7. Define No Man's Land: **The space between the front lines of the opposing forces (the area between the German and Allied trenches).**
8. Weapons the Newfoundland soldiers were using: **303 Lee Enfield rifles with bayonet**
9. Weapons the German's were using: **Machine guns (Lewis guns)**
10. Number of soldiers who entered the battle: **801**
11. Number who died: **233**
12. Number who were missing: **91**
13. Number who were wounded: **386**
14. Number who answered roll call: **68**

15. Three reasons why the Battle of Beaumont Hamel went wrong for the Newfoundland Regiment:

a) ***The Hawthorne Ridge explosion***: The British set off a 20,000 kg mine under German fortifications. However, instead of harming the Germans it warned them of the coming attack and allowed them to set up for battle.

b) ***Weaponry***: The Newfoundland Regiment were armed with rifles and were trained in the use of bayonets and hand-to-hand combat. This was no match for the Lewis guns used by the Germans. Newfoundlanders were mowed down as they crossed No Man's Land.

c) ***Field conditions***: The Regiment had to contend with both mud and barbed wire as they tried to cross No Man's Land. The British had shelled the area heavily about a week before. However it didn't cause the damage that was anticipated and many men got caught up. The Germans trained their guns on the gaps in the wire that had been created.

16. Why is this Battle so important in our provinces history?

a) ***Loss of life and limb***: Over 700 soldiers either died or were wounded. With such a small population, many families were directly affected. They lost brothers, fathers, sons etc. or ended up having to care for injured family members who could no longer work.

b) ***Economic***: many of the men that were members of the workforce were now either dead or injured. Severely injured men had to be taken care of by the government and by their families. In the end the war cost Newfoundland altogether millions of dollars.

c) It was an ***incredible display of courage*** that only failed because "dead men can advance no further" (pg. 131 for quote from General Beauvoir de Lisle). Even though they knew their fate, they continued in their efforts to defeat the enemy. They paid the ultimate sacrifice in their bid to achieve freedom.

17) When was the first Memorial Day held here in Newfoundland? ***July 1st, 1917***

18) When was the Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park opened in France? ***June 27th, 1925***