

# AS MEMORY FADES

How do we remember what's important  
about Canada and the Second World War?



**T**here are about 33,000 Canadian veterans still alive who served in the Second World War. That might sound like a lot until you realize that about 1.1 million people joined up over the course of the war. And then there are all those who were very young when they lived through the war — they're well into their 80s now. And all those who were very young when they lived through the war years here in Canada are well into their 80s now. Of course we honour those who sacrificed during the war every Remembrance Day, but how will we remember the war when those who experienced it first-hand are gone?

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER  
THE SECOND WORLD WAR?**



How might the family of a soldier killed remember the war? How do you think Canadians from Japanese, German or Italian backgrounds might remember the war differently? How might those memories be different for a First Nations family where veterans did not receive the benefits they deserved? How might Jewish people remember it if the Nazis killed much of their family in death camps?

Ask older people in your family about their experience during the war, or what they heard their parents talk about. If someone from your family served in the war, are there any of their things still around that are connected to the war, like a uniform or medals? Are there any diaries or photographs? These stories aren't just part of your family history — they're part of Canada's history.



**WHAT DO YOU THINK IS IMPORTANT  
TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE WAR?  
HOW CAN YOU HELP KEEP THOSE MEMORIES ALIVE?**