

# Battle of the Atlantic

## Learning Resources

Exploring the Battle of the Atlantic - Activity 1  
Teacher Answer Sheet #1 - The Battle of the Atlantic

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Read the 'Canada Remembers the Battle of the Atlantic' historical sheet and answer the following questions.

### Section A - True or False

- 1) The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous battle of the Second World War.

**True**

- 2) The Battle of the Atlantic brought the war to Canada's doorstep; with U-boats torpedoing ships within sight of Canada's East Coast and even in the St. Lawrence River.

**True**

- 3) Between January and July 1942, more U-boats were sunk than merchant ships.

**False**

- 4) Germany developed torpedoes that were attracted to the noise made by a ship's propellers.

**True**

- 5) Approximately 2,000 personnel of the Royal Canadian Navy and 750 members of the Royal Canadian Air Force died during the Battle of the Atlantic.

**True**

## Section B – Multiple choices

1) The Battle of the Atlantic began in...

a) August 1939

**b) September 1939**

c) October 1939

d) November 1939

2) The German submarines were referred to as ...

a) Hunt ships

b) Night hawks

**c) U-boats**

d) Wolf group

3) Which three East Coast cities were busy Allied convoy ports during the Battle of the Atlantic?

a) Halifax (Nova Scotia), Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island) and Saint-John (New Brunswick)

**b) Halifax and Sydney (Nova Scotia) and St. John's, (Newfoundland)**

c) Sydney (Nova Scotia), Saint-John (New Brunswick) and St. John's (Newfoundland)

d) Yarmouth and Sydney (Nova Scotia) and Dalhousie (New Brunswick)

4) The zone in the central area of the Atlantic Ocean where many of the heaviest Allied convoy losses occurred was known as...

**a) The Black Pit**

b) The Danger Zone

c) The Dead Spot

d) The Troubled Area

5) On October 14, 1942, 136 people died when this passenger ship was sunk as it crossed from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland.

**a) SS Caribou**

b) Edmund Fitzgerald

c) Lusitania

d) Titanic

## Section C – Written answers

- 1) What was the 'Battle of the Atlantic'?

**The Battle of the Atlantic was the struggle between the Allied and German forces for the control of the Atlantic Ocean.**

- 2) Name the three Canadian organizations that played a key role for the Allies in bringing supplies to Europe.

**Canada's Merchant Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) played a key role in the Allied efforts.**

- 3) How did technology play an important role in helping Allied air forces during the Battle of the Atlantic?

**Aircraft were effective in protecting merchant ships, but the Allied planes used earlier in the war did not have enough range to offer air cover for the convoys all the way across the Atlantic. The introduction of new long-range planes helped reduce the hazards of this dangerous portion of the run.**

- 4) What inventions made by Allied scientists helped sink German submarines during the Battle of the Atlantic?

**Allied scientists invented a noise-making device that was towed behind a ship to divert the enemy torpedoes. New radar and sonar (ASDIC) technologies helped the Allies find the U-boats and new weapons, like the "Hedgehog" bombs, helped sink the submarines more effectively.**

- 5) How many Merchant Navy personnel from Canada and Newfoundland died during the Battle of the Atlantic?

**More than 1,600 Merchant Navy personnel from Canada and Newfoundland were killed.**