

Remembering Alex (Grade 5)



Learning Goals:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions

Materials

Paper
Pencil
Outside walk/run with parent/friend

Activities

We live in a peaceful country that has been created by the sacrifices and efforts of generations of Canadians who have fought for the cause of peace and freedom. We must remember all that these people have done during times of war which helps us to better understand our nation's history and its future. A soldier that was remarkable was Private Alexander (Alex) Decoteau who was Canada's first Indigenous police officer, a Canadian soldier and an Olympic athlete.

The First World War started in Europe in 1914 where some of the countries were against some other countries. In France and Belgium, families lost their homes, and many were cold and hungry. Check out the map of Europe to locate these places.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/remembrance/information-for/educators/passchendaele/world-map-eng.pdf>

Canada decided to come to the assistance of these people in need by sending thousands of soldiers to help. Canadian soldiers fought in many difficult battles, and one of them was the Battle of Passchendaele (1917). This word is said this way: Pa-chen-dale

Read the following article about Alexander Wuttunee Decoteau.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/remembrance/information-for/educators/passchendaele/an-inspiring-runner-eng.pdf>

Watch the video of the graphic novel story about Alexander Wuttunee Decoteau

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwW7qJmY304>

Thinking questions:

Reflecting on your life, what activities are you good at? Sports, math, art, cooking, music?

Try to relate to Alex and the things he sacrificed when he went to battle. Do you think Alex might have participated in another Olympics if he didn't die in war? What do you think he would do if he returned from war?

Head outdoors on a walk with a friend or your parent or run 5 km like Alex did! Think about Alexander's accomplishments and about your accomplishments and the people that help support you in achieving your accomplishments.

Write a letter to a family member, a friend or a teacher and tell them about Alex's story, including your thoughts that came to you on your walk.

Extensions: Find out more about the new [Alexander Wuttunee Decoteau Park in Edmonton](#). What is special about this park? What features are there? Draw a map of the park and include the different areas and structures found there.