

**Question Book for *Life as a Canadian Prisoner of War:  
Canada in the Pacific, World War II***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Student:

On Christmas Day 1941, the military forces defending the island of Hong Kong surrendered to the Empire of Japan. Canadian soldiers fought in defence of this British colony, and those who survived became Prisoners of War (POWs). In the years that followed, Canadian prisoners endured brutalities, malnutrition, disease, difficult working conditions, and isolation.

Your mission today is to learn about the POW camps.

## THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG

1. Which two battalions were sent to defend Hong Kong?

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2. Name two reasons why the Canadians were defeated.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

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b) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Place the correct number from the box below with the correct statistic:

|        |       |       |       |     |     |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| 12,000 | 1,975 | 1,428 | 1,192 | 290 | 493 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|

a) Number of Canadians wounded and captured: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Number of Canadians wounded: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Number of Canadian troops: \_\_\_\_\_

d) Number of British/Indian troops: \_\_\_\_\_

e) Number of Canadians killed: \_\_\_\_\_

f) Number of POWs who returned to Canada: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS**

1. Using the dictionary, define Prisoner of War:

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2. What are the names of two POW camps? What are their locations?

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3. Using the description given of North Point camp, give five reasons why it was considered a "stinking mess!":

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# THE GENEVA CONVENTION AND BUSHIDO

1. Define the following terms:

a) Mutatis Mutandis:

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b) Bushido:

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2. Under the Bushido code, what was considered shameful?

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3. How did the concept of Bushido influence the way the Japanese military treated the Canadian POWs?

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4. How did the Japanese military punish their captives?

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## THE CONDITIONS

1. How many Canadian soldiers died in the POW camps?

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2. What were the conditions of the buildings the men were housed in?

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3. What did the men have to do when no latrines (toilets) were available?

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4. Give three reasons why the sleeping quarters were uncomfortable.

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5. What were Kongs? What were they used for?

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6. What bugs bothered the POW's? Which one was the most hated?

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7. Name two ways the men tried to kill the vermin:

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## **BRUTALITIES**

1. Name two brutalities that the Canadian POWs suffered at the hands of their Japanese captors:

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2. What was Tenko?

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## FOOD AND RATIONS

1. For each statement below, indicate if it is true or false.

| Statement  | T / F? |
|--|--------|
| The topic of food generally became an obsession.         |        |
| The portions were based on a Western diet.               |        |
| The main staple of their diet was rice.                  |        |
| Sick prisoners were given more food.                     |        |
| Food was overcooked as a punishment.                     |        |
| Food was often infested with worms and other things.     |        |
| Rice was often swept up from warehouse floors.           |        |
| The prisoners were often left to capture their own food. |        |
| Prison cooks had to learn how to prepare Japanese meals. |        |
| Soldiers' diet consisted of plenty of vitamins.          |        |

2. What was the difference between what Canadian POWs needed and what they got to eat?

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## DISEASE AND SICKNESS

1. Match the correct description with the correct disease/sickness.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Cholera _____      | A. Vitamin deficiency disease cause by a lack of protein.                            |
| Wet Beriberi _____ | B. Also known as "hot feet".   |
| Dysentery _____    | C. Affecting the heart, it is caused by a lack of thiamine.                          |
| Diphtheria _____   | D. Caused by ingesting food or water with microorganisms that attack the intestines. |
| Pellagra _____     | E. Caused by contaminated water and food, resulting in vomiting and fever.           |
| Dry Beriberi _____ | F. Respiratory disease that is highly contagious.                                    |

2. What happened to the medication that could be used to treat the POWs?

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## WORK

1. What work did the Japanese military force the Canadian POWs to do at the following sites?

a) Omaine: \_\_\_\_\_

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b) North Point camp: \_\_\_\_\_

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c) For Nippon Kokon: \_\_\_\_\_

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d) For Burma-Thailand: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What did prisoners get to eat during the work day?

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## **DIVERSIONS**

1. Name two ways the men in the POW camps passed the time?

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2. As time passed, why did POWs participate less in sports and handicrafts?

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## **OUTSIDE CONTACT**

1. What would Canadian POWs do at the fence line?

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2. What would be considered an important commodity for the POWs? Why?

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3. Why were the reports from the Red Cross neutral?

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4. What happened to the Red Cross parcels that were sent to the prisoners?

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5. How long did it take for a letter to get from a POW to their family?

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## **ESCAPE**

1. Explain why escape from Japanese POW camps was difficult? Give two reasons.

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2. What was the punishment for POWs who were caught escaping?

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## **LIBERATION**

1. When did Japan formally surrender?

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2. What did the Canadian government grant in December 1998? Why?

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3. Reading the excerpts on how the men reacted to the end of the war, why were the men happy?

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## REFLECTION

What are your thoughts on this event?

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Why is it important that the sacrifices and trials of these men be remembered?

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The Japanese Government has formally apologized to the Canadian veterans for the treatment experienced in POW camps during WWII. Do you think this is enough? Why do

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you think the Japanese government has been reluctant to take responsibility for the crimes committed during WWII?

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Why do you think this event is important to Canadian History?

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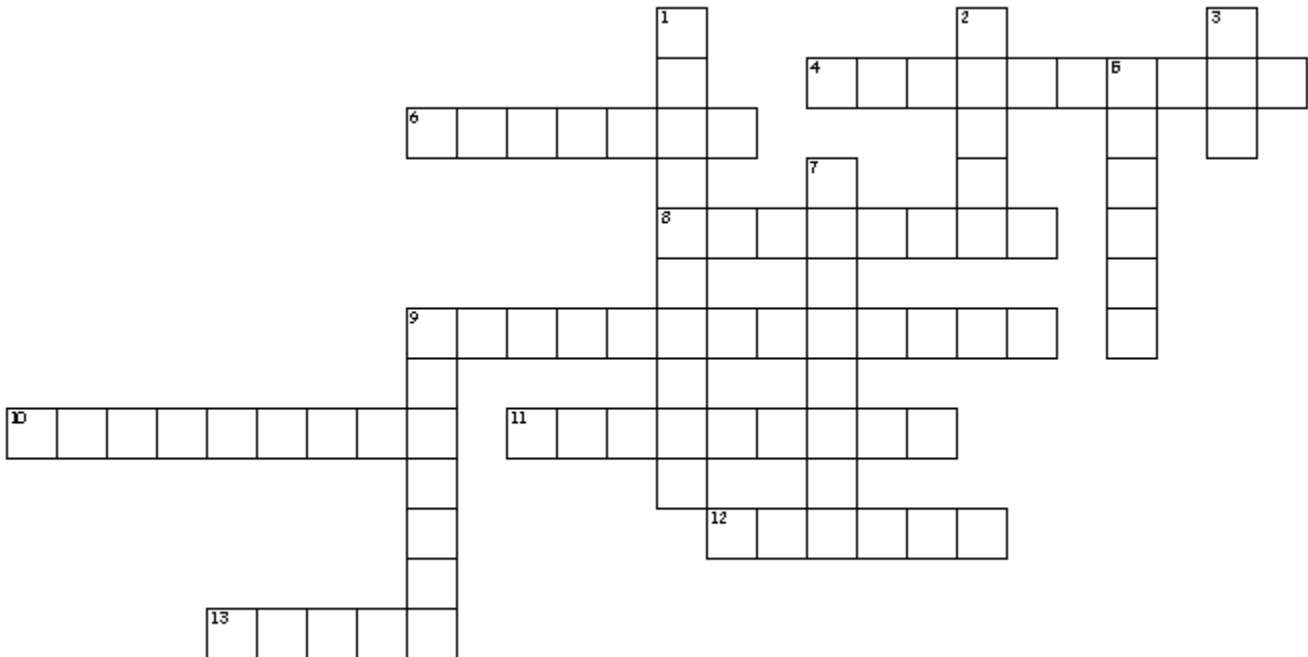
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## Review Crossword

| ACROSS  | DOWN   |
|---|--|
| 4. Name of the corporation that owned a shipyard<br>6. The most hated insect<br>8. A meal of only rice<br>9. The name of the railroad that the prisoners worked on<br>10. The day that Hong Kong surrendered<br>11. Also called bloody flux<br>12. The name of the airport the prisoners worked on in Japan<br>13. Term meaning roll call | 1. The most precious commodity for the prisoners<br>2. The term for large kettles<br>3. The short form for prisoner of war<br>5. The name of the camp where prisoners worked as slave labour in coal mines<br>7. The Sinhalese phrase meaning "I cannot, I cannot"<br>9. Term meaning the "way of the warrior" |



## Review Word Search

Answer the questions in the chart then find the answer in the word search below.

| QUESTION   | ANSWER |
|--|--------|
| Name of the POW camp located on the mainland of China.                         |        |
| Name of the battalions that fought in the Battle of Hong Kong:<br>two answers. |        |
| Name of the POW camp located in Hong Kong.                                     |        |
| Name of the convention that the Japanese government violated.                  |        |
| Term for an ancient rule of conduct on the battlefield.                        |        |
| This surrounded the POW camps.   |        |
| The prisoners slept on this type of floor.                                     |        |
| This disease was caused by having a diet of only white rice.                   |        |
| Poor POW treatment was in violation of this document.                          |        |
| This disease resulted in red lesions on the skin.                              |        |
| Soldiers rarely received these from the Red Cross.                             |        |
| A respiratory disease.   |        |
| At the Omaine camp, POWs mined for this item.                                  |        |
| The short form for post-traumatic stress disorder.                             |        |
| This topic often became one of obsession.                                      |        |

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M S W Q M Q M S Q K E H G O W X U S H K P B N T V  
B U K T T L H M J F N S E L F I R L A Y O R Q V P  
K X K A Y G U T F D F M N J A E X U P B U F M H M  
E R T L P O Z B E R I B E R I W D E B R A B N K K  
X M K T U E O Y N N G X V D A E X G F C A R V M D  
N W D L L X Q D T B K P A M V I H F N D J P Q W C  
V T L Z Q J T R Z K U N C N X M C D Q W O I V J E  
F D S M P F Y V B S E O O G G X Z Y E A F X W P O  
T V Q F X I J U J R S M N R P O Y Q X T I X A Y N  
E W O K P Q S M G I W L V U T N B R R Y P R E O U  
E O S D S H U G W A P P E P H H E W D T T N J A I  
O V X Z I B E J P R J Z N C R L P C R T M X W R S  
U X S D A P O D P G V E T E R C N O C Q H F A F H  
W A O P I U H S M A H S I J R A V A I F V L D O N  
O O L N Y L O T I L Y Y O Z M I P L G N T N N E W  
F T N N G I I P H L W Y N L V F B F N K T R Y R Z  
B I L J R A Y B C E G U F B I X D T M A B H D R S  
W Q D S W S R A E P R N K L H A L B M R D N A R P  
V D H Y I H K L T I G I A X L Q C D R G M M K E U  
S N R W X E M N A P W R A C H J L C L P V R M J L  
T Z V I L X G O I X V M U Y Q Q X F B Q G K J Q C  
V L O Y H Z F H X V Z H E L H H L T B E P H M X V  
P Z S W N N D G J G Q E S Z B E A M W K W N B Y C  
P W M Q O J F B Q J Y A S R N A X P J S H O P Z V  
B X S U Z E N D V V U L S D E R D Z Z R C J C P U