

Student Link

Lesson Activity for Grade 8

(Themes & Features: Tommy Douglas)

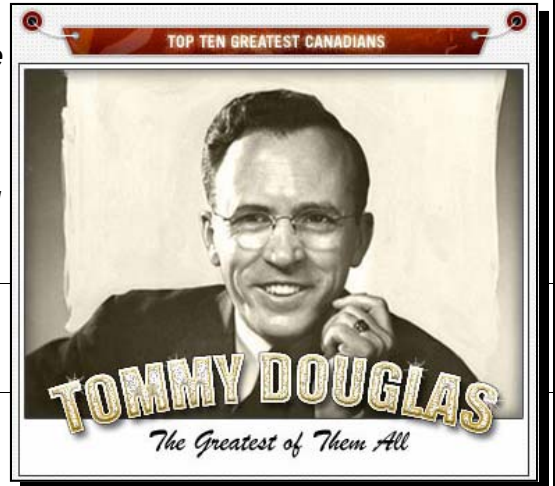
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Student Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Back in 2004, the CBC held a Canada-wide contest, which you probably heard about: *The Greatest Canadian*. People across the country were asked to vote for who they thought was *The Greatest Canadian*. It turns out, when the final results were tabulated, that Tommy Douglas was. But who is he? If you didn't get a chance to see the show, then read on as we learn more about Canada's Greatest Canadian.



1. On the StudentLink Grade 8 menu, click on “Themes and Features”.
2. Next, click on “CBC Greatest...” under the “Tommy Douglas” column.
3. You should now be at the homepage for CBC’s “The Greatest Canadian”. Read the biography below the picture to get more information about this famous Canadian. When you’re done, answer the questions below:

4. Where did Tommy Douglas grow up?

5. What life-changing event inspired Douglas’s dream of Universal Medicare?

6. What does CCF stand for and how was it significant to Tommy Douglas?

7. What principled stand did he take during the October crisis of 1970?

8. Name three things that Douglas advocated for which he is famous. Briefly explain why each is still very much important to Canadians today.

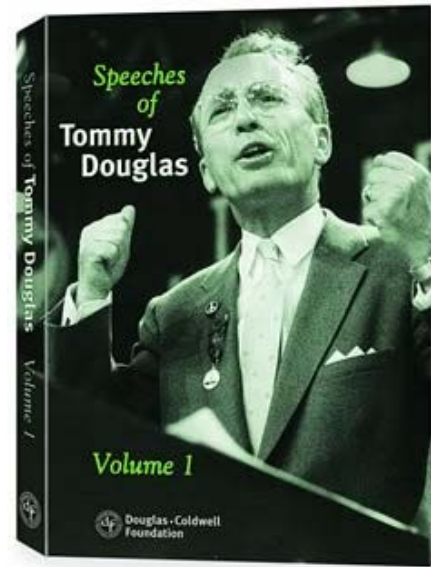
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Often Douglas is remembered for his fiery speeches and his great debating skills. Let's listen to some of these...

9. Go back to the StudentLink Grade 8 “**Themes and Features**” homepage.
10. Then click on “**Douglas Speeches**”.



11. Listen to the speech on “**Save Medicare**”. Why do you think Tommy Douglas is so passionate about Medicare?
12. Now go back to the Grade 8 “**Themes and Features**” homepage and click on “**CBC Archives**”. Here you can view CBC Archive footage of Douglas. Watch some of the videos below and answer the following questions:

4
[The story of Mouseland: A political allegory](#)



Life was tougher than ever in Mouseland until a little mouse came forward with a big idea. (Radio; runs 5:30)

8
[Tommy Douglas, Canadian funny-man](#)



With expert timing and delivery, Douglas still has the country in stitches. (Radio; runs 14:10)

9
[Tommy Douglas remembered](#)



Former NDP leader Tommy Douglas is mourned across the country. (TV; runs 10:27)

13. Why do you think Douglas appealed to voters?

14. What leadership qualities do you think Douglas possessed?

15. What other qualities would you attribute to Douglas? How did these qualities enable him to achieve political success?