



DISCOVERY

ZONE

Walk into the world of ordinary Australians living in extraordinary times

Curriculum focus

English: Reading, Writing, Research

Science and Technology: Using technology, Investigating

HSIE/SOSE: Environments, Change and continuity

PDHPE: Decision making

Performing Arts: Drama

Mathematics: Mapping, Number, Calculations.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- describe different cultural influences and their contributions to Australian identity
- explain how culture and heritage contribute to Australian and community identity
- identify significant events and the influence they have had on Australians
- locate, using a world map, places where Australians were involved in wars and conflicts
- describe the contributions made to Australian culture by events and persons of significance, using a variety of primary and secondary sources (such as video, photographs, recounts, CD-ROMs and Internet sites)
- explain the importance of knowing about the past in order to understand the present, and hypothesise about the future
- identify some significant sites and places and the significance of these to Australia's heritage
- appreciate historical roots, shared history and the persons, forces and events that have shaped present societies and cultures.

Introduction

The newest addition to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra is the Discovery Zone. In this amazing learning space visitors can see, touch, listen and smell their way through five distinct environments that replicate the living conditions during five periods of conflict since Federation. The five environments are:

- a trench somewhere on the Western Front in France during the First World War
- a typical north Australian backyard during the Second World War
- a Cold War-era submarine
- a helicopter pad from the Vietnam War
- a temporary building housing Australian peacekeepers somewhere in an emerging nation.

The Discovery Zone environments provide a unique insight into the experiences of Australians who lived through the key conflicts in our nation's history.

Website resources

<http://www.awm.gov.au>

(Australian War Memorial. Contains links to an online encyclopaedia, histories, records, activities for children and details of current exhibitions), including the following specific sites:

<http://www.awm.gov.au/kidshq/>

(Australian War Memorial. Activities for students relating to the experiences of Australians during wartime.)

<http://www.awm.gov.au/events/online.htm>

(Australian War Memorial online exhibitions with excellent resources for use in the classroom.)

<http://www.awm.gov.au/diaries>

(Australian War Memorial war diaries project. An ongoing project to digitise the military diaries in the Memorial's collection.)

<http://dev.links.com.au/diorama/index.htm>

(Australian War Memorial dioramas, including the superb interactive Lone Pine diorama.)

Discussion questions

1. What conflicts has Australia been involved in since Federation?
2. What was the Cold War? How long did it last?
3. Is peacekeeping different to war? How?
4. How does war affect the soldiers' families?
5. Why is it important to understand what life was like for Australians involved in the conflicts you identified in Question 1?
6. What should we remember about these Australians? How should we remember them?
7. When is a war really over? (Think about the effects of war upon those who have experienced it, and their families.)

Activities

Writing about rats and rot

Assist students to research the year 1916—this essay is a good place to start: <http://awm-public/ww1/1916/essay.asp>. The Memorial collections database (<http://www.awm.gov.au/database/collection.asp>) also contains a wealth of photographs and artworks relating to the Western Front. Ask them to imagine that they are a soldier in a trench on the Western Front during that year. Who are they, and what is their job? Get students to write about that character using a diary-entry format, an imagined letter to their mother or their recollections as an old man.

Making do with cabbage stew

Ask students to talk to family or community members about what household items were rationed or in short supply during the Second World War. How did this affect the lives of school children? Cook and share a meal made from an 'austerity recipe' in use during the war (for some sample recipes see 'Families and food: wartime tucker' by Michal Bosworth at www.john.curtin.edu.au/events/seminar2003_bosworth.html).

Dust off or demonstrate

After researching the use of helicopters during the Vietnam war using the War memorial's database: <http://www.awm.gov.au/database/collection.asp>, ask students to imagine two characters. The first is a helicopter crewman involved in the Vietnam War. His main task is to go on 'dust off' missions, rescuing injured soldiers from battle and getting them to hospital safely. The second character is a university student who is protesting against Australia's involvement in the war. Ask students to create a short play that includes a dialogue between these two characters.

Hear n' seek

You can't see much from a submarine, but the crew of a submarine (called submariners) can hear nearby vessels using sonar. Find out what 'sonar' is, then try the following game.

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Blindfold 4 members of each team and place them in the centre of the classroom with the rest of the students forming a circle around them.
3. The blindfolded students of each team need to decide on a sound they will make to identify themselves and must make this sound regularly once the game starts. The sound should not be too loud and should be easy for their team mates to identify.
4. The blindfolded students must find and capture as many members of the other team as they can while avoiding capture themselves. Once a team member is captured they are 'out' and must pass their blindfold to another member of their team until everyone in the team has been caught.
5. The best assistance that the rest of the team can give the blindfolded members is to be absolutely quiet, as in the 'cat and mouse' game of submariners during the Cold War.



SCHOOLS MAY CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR THEIR VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL:

- Education programs
- Teacher-guided tours
- Discovery Zone sessions
- School wreathlaying ceremonies

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL SCHOOL VISITS.

You can book online at
<http://www.awm.gov.au/education/bookings/index.asp>
or by calling the school bookings officer on
(02) 6243 4268.




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