

ANZAC Day

Introduction

ANZAC Day — 25 April — is the day Australians remember the original landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) on Gallipoli in 1915. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. On this day, the service of our veterans is acknowledged in ceremonies held in towns and cities across the nation.

The unit below encourages students to further their understanding of the men and women who sacrificed their lives in wars and the impact it had and continues to have in shaping the nation of Australia.



Curriculum focus

HSIE — Significant events and people

English — Writing, Reading, Research and Presenting

Science and Technology — Using Technology, Design and Make

Creative Arts — Art and Craft

Learning outcomes

Students will:

- find out about past events and people using historical journals and information available in books and on the internet.
- explain the significance of particular people, groups, places, actions and events in developing Australian identities and heritage.
- identify the origins of important days and events celebrated by their family and/or the community.
- identify the origins of ANZAC Day and demonstrate an understanding of other nationally remembered days.

Useful web resources

www.awm.gov.au/education/activities

www.ANZACsite.gov.au

www.awm.gov.au/kidshq

www.google.com.au (type in ANZAC Day)

Discussion questions

1. How did the name 'ANZAC' evolve and what does it mean?
2. Where is ANZAC Cove? Locate it on a map.
3. What were living conditions like at home and at war in 1915?
4. What were some of the causes of war? Are most wars caused by similar events?
5. What is propaganda? What is conscription?
6. What was rationing and why did it exist?
7. Why do you think it is important to remember those who fought for Australia?

8. Should we also remember those who fought in all wars, including the recent Iraq War, on ANZAC Day? Discuss.
9. Ask different people what ANZAC Day means to them. What do you think ANZAC Day will mean to young people in the future?

Activities

What was a war really like?

Invite someone to speak to the students about their experiences of war or peacemaking. Encourage the students to write some interview questions to ask the visitor/s.

KidsHQ

Allow the students to explore the website www.awm.gov.au and to enter the section *KidsHQ* to take part in the interactive activities such as 'Great Stories', 'Technology', 'Animals in War', 'Home Front' and 'My Job'.

Make a poppy

Use the design found on

www.awm.gov.au/education/activities and have students make their own poppies to wear on ANZAC Day.

Research project

Encourage students to use online resources (eg, the Memorial's website) to profile a famous war hero. Some war heroes to consider might include:

- John Simpson Kirkpatrick (the man with the donkey)
- Albert Jacka
- Dorothy Gwendolen Cawood
- Lawrence Dominic 'Fats' McCarthy
- Francis Hubert (Frank) McNamara
- Henry William Murray
- Nurses in the First World War (www.awm.gov.au/1918/medical/nurses.htm)

- Edward 'Weary' Dunlop
- Vivian Bullwinkel
- Edward 'Teddy' Sheean
- Bill Newton
- Keith Payne
- Dennis 'Dasher' Wheatley

Alternatively, follow this link to the Australian War Memorial's website and choose someone to research:
www.awm.gov.au/people/index.asp

Lest we forget

- Discuss how Australia celebrates ANZAC Day. Encourage the class to write a journal of the day from a soldier's perspective including marching, catching up with friends, playing Two-up, etc. Ask students to share how they celebrate ANZAC Day. Should ANZAC Day be a national holiday? Why?
- Plan an ANZAC Day ceremony for their school or local community. Download the educational resource, *ANZAC — a day to remember*, from the Commemorations section of the Memorial's website.

*Hold a theme day around
 "Australians at War."*

Theme day

Hold a theme day around "Australians at War." Encourage students, teachers and helpers to dress up in clothing or uniforms from wartime eras. Ask students to role play and experience lives and events from different wars that have influenced Australia. Divide students into groups representing different allied countries. Rotate the groups through a series of different activities outlined below.

1. The knitter's club: Students work with needles and wool creating knitted garments for the war effort. Students learn basic techniques of knitting with the help of teachers, parents and grandparents.
2. Stretcher making: Have groups construct a stretcher from hessian and wooden supports with which to carry an 'injured' group member.
3. The first aid tent: Have 'wounded' students pass through a tent for operations such as eye patches, plaster casts, slings, leg strapping and bandaging. Students learn to tie a sling and take a pulse. (Parents and friends with medical training are helpful for this activity.)
4. War planes: Find a template and have the students construct model war planes from paper. Have a long-distance gliding competition.
5. Propaganda posters: Encourage students to create propaganda posters.



Visit the Australian War Memorial

Discover ...

- The stories behind the exhibits by doing an education program at the Memorial.
- *Kids HQ*, our exciting interactive website:
www.awm.gov.au/kidshq
- Memorial Boxes: full of artefacts, photographs, videos, stories, and activities.

Imagine ...

- Your students can have a hands-on experience with our extensive collection of objects and uniforms
- Dramatic sound-and-light shows in ANZAC Hall every hour re-create a night operation over Berlin in December 1943 and the attack on Sydney Harbour by Japanese midget submarines in 1942.

Remember ...

- Place a poppy on the Roll of Honour
- Lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier — **School wreath laying ceremonies** are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.



Australian War Memorial

Bookings are essential for all visits and activities. For more information about our programs and to book a visit online go to www.awm.gov.au/education or call our bookings officer on (02) 6243 4268.