



Anzac Day

Lesson Ideas

Below you will find a selection of curriculum-linked lesson ideas and accompanying activity sheets, written for primary and middle years students, on the topic of Anzac Day.

Please note: Some of the content in the lessons may be upsetting for some students. It is advised that teachers use their discretion when selecting lessons for use in the classroom.

Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about Anzac Day, including why and how it is commemorated.
- Students will discover the contribution that people serving in the forces have made in the past and are still making today.
- Students will learn about Australia's war history and its significance in our lives today.

English

- Students to complete the '**Anzac Day Word Find**' activity sheet.
- Students to complete the '**Anzac Day KWL Chart**' activity sheet.
- Students to select an example of war poetry. There are three examples provided with the activity sheets (please check to see which are suitable for your students). Students can use the '**Words of War**' activity sheet to respond to and analyse the poem. Once this is completed students should discuss their poem with a partner or in a small group.
- Students to find the definitions of some words commonly heard when discussing Anzac Day or war in general on the '**Anzac Vocabulary**' activity sheet.
- Students to write a diary entry from the perspective of a digger in the trenches.
- Students to read the information in 'Facts for Students' (in the 'Themed Curriculum Support Resources' section of the FTfs website) then complete the '**Anzac Day Comprehension**' activity sheet.
- Students to read and then complete a book review of *Simpson and his Donkey* by Mark Greenwood.
- Students to think about what memorials mean and complete the '**Anzac Acrostic Poem**' activity sheet.



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Mathematics

- Students to complete the **'Anzac Day Dot-to-Dot'** activity sheet.
- Australia is a relatively young country. Since federation (in 1901) Australia's Defence Forces have been involved in many wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions. Students to research:
 - the total number of months/years (since federation) spent at war or in conflicts
 - the total number of months/years (since federation) spent on peacekeeping missions
 - the total number of months/years (since federation) that the Australian Defence Forces have not been involved in missions of any kind
 - how many countries the Australian Defence Forces have served in.
- Students to test their knowledge of coordinates by completing **'The Last Post Coordinate Drawing'** activity sheet.
- Students to find solutions to number sentences to reveal the hidden picture on the **'Anzac Symbol Number Puzzle'** activity sheet.
- Students to think about, and calculate, wartime statistics by completing the **'Cost of War'** activity sheet.

Science

- Students to select an aspect of military life (food, medicine, clothing, artillery etc.) and research to find out the role of scientists in improving war resources and conditions.

Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, Economics and Business, Civics and Citizenship)

- Students to complete a project on their family tree. Where was their family in 1915 and were they affected by WWI?
- Students to research Australians at war and complete the **'Australians at War'** activity sheet.
- Students to research the provided war symbols and record their findings on the **'Symbols of War'** activity sheet.



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- It is more than 100 years since the start of World War I. In groups, students to investigate a decade from the last century and write a report for the rest of the class. The report could focus on:
 - transport
 - popular culture
 - fashion
 - food
 - manufacturing
 - technology
 - education
 - politics.
- Students to research and write a report about the role of women in war and how it has changed over time.
- Students to research the ways in which Anzac Day is commemorated.
- Students to mark on a map of the world the key places that Australian troops were situated in WWI.
- Anzac Cove has become an important place for Australians, Turks and New Zealanders. Students to reflect on places that are important to them and why.
- Students to research the terrain around Anzac Cove and use this information to make a diorama of the area.
- Students to research the terrain and climate of the locations in which the Australian Defence Forces are currently serving. How do students think these factors affect the work of the soldiers?
- Students to consider the various opportunity costs of military action. This should include the cost of war and how this impacts on government spending in other areas.
- Students to debate the pros and cons of conscription, take a position and justify it. They can use the '**Conscription PMI**' activity sheet.
- Students to discuss the idea of volunteering. Why do they think people volunteered to go and fight in WWI and other conflicts?
- Students to research a recipient of the Victoria Cross, including their name, date of birth, battalion, and some facts about them.



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- Students to research the peacekeeping and aid roles played by the Australian Defence Force in conflicts around the world. Discuss as a class how participation in conflicts can be violent or peaceful.

The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)

- Students to create a mural illustrating what the ANZAC Centenary means to them.
- Students to complete one or both of the **'Anzac Day Colour'** activity sheets.
- Students to create a poppy to commemorate Anzac Day by using the **'Make a Poppy'** activity sheet.
- Students to view pictures of war bravery medals, then design one of their own.
- Students to design then make their own wreath using only recycled materials.
- Students to use the **'Wreath Necklace'** sheet to make their own commemorative necklace.

Technologies (Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)

- Students to investigate how technologies used in war have developed since WWI.
- Students to explore the properties of various fabrics then decide which ones would be suitable for war time uniforms and why.

Health and Physical Education

- Students to bake Anzac biscuits (check for allergies). Students to discuss how these biscuits helped to boost the morale of soldiers. Why do certain foods make us feel good?
- Students to research the type of training completed by the men and women who work in the Australian Defence Forces. Create a drill and teach it to the rest of the class.

Languages

- Students to research which countries the Australian Defence Force (ADF) members are currently based in then discuss the importance of ADF members knowing how to speak the language of the country.