



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lesson Ideas

These curriculum-linked, Remembrance Day-themed lesson ideas and activity sheets offer a range of learning experiences for primary and middle years students.

Please note: Some of the content in the lessons below, and in the 'Facts for Students' section of the FTfs website, 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 Remembrance Day, including why and how it is commemorated.
- Students will consider the importance of remembering and commemorating special events.
- Students will learn about Australia's war history and its significance in our lives today.

English

- Students to complete the '**Remembrance Day Acrostic Poem**' activity sheet.
- Students to complete the '**Remembrance Day KWL Chart**'.
- Students to conduct an internet search and read some examples of war poetry, then select their favourite poem to read to the class. Discuss each poem, including the message it delivers.
- Students to write a diary entry from the perspective of one of the following people:
 - a soldier fighting during World War I
 - a family member of a fighting soldier
 - a leader in charge of a group of troops
 - a politician making the decision to go to war.
- Students to research a recipient of the Victoria Cross and record their name, date of birth, battalion, and some interesting facts about them.



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- 'The Ode' has been read as part of Remembrance Day services since 1921. It is one verse of a longer poem called *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon. In small groups, students to take one verse of this poem and discuss what it means, how it makes them feel, any unfamiliar words that are used, etc. Each group should share what they have read and discovered.
- Students to read the information in 'Facts for Students' (in the 'Themed Curriculum Support Resources' section of the FTfs website) then complete the '**Remembrance Day Comprehension**' activity sheet.

Mathematics

- Students to make a calendar of commemorative events that they, their family, or their friends celebrate. This could include birthdays, anniversaries, religious celebrations, reunions, holidays, etc.
- 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) our defence forces have spent at war or in conflicts
 - the total number of months/years (since federation) our defence forces have 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 different countries the Australian Defence Forces have served in.

Science

- 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 examine some poppies (or rosemary). What parts does the plant have? What conditions does it need to grow? How does it reproduce?



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Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- Students to complete a project on their family tree. Where was their family in 1918 and were they affected by WWI?
- Students to research Australians at war and complete the **'Australians at War'** activity sheet.
- Students to investigate other major events that occurred in 1918 (apart from the end of WWI).
- Create a class timeline (beginning at 1900) which includes all the conflicts Australia has been involved in. Students to add notes or images of local or important events that have also happened over this time.
- Students to research the many ways in which people have commemorated Remembrance Day.
- Students to research and write a report about the role of women in war and how it has changed over time.

Geography

- Students to mark on a map of the world the key places that Australian troops were situated in WWI.
- Many places from WWI (such as Gallipoli, Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt) have become important for Australians. Students to reflect on places that are important to them and why.

Economics and Business

- Entering a conflict can cost a country a lot of money. Students to see what they can find out about how much Australia spends on its Defence Forces each year. Use the internet, newspapers or even your local Member of Parliament to assist you.
- Students to research the effect war has on the local economy.
- Students to consider the effect that war and conflict has on global economic and business markets.



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Civics and Citizenship

- Students to investigate the meaning of ‘conscription’, then debate its pros and cons. How would students feel if they were conscripted to fight for their country?
- Wars have often started as a result of the beliefs or actions of a country’s government. Students to select a country that has been involved in a conflict and find out more about its political or belief system.

The Arts

- Students to design a Remembrance Day memorial to be constructed within their school or local community.
- Students to create a poppy to commemorate Remembrance Day 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.

Technologies

- Students to research the various technologies and equipment used during World War I (for example aircraft, uniforms, tanks, machinery, etc.). How does this differ from the equipment used now?
- Students to design a new uniform for one of the Australian Defence Forces (Army, Navy or Air Force). Label its features and materials and indicate why the materials were chosen.

Health and Physical Education

- 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.
- Students to research the conditions that soldiers were living in during WWI. What effect did these conditions have on their health?

Languages

- Students to research which countries the members of the Australian Defence Forces are currently based in. Discuss the importance of knowing how to speak the language of the country.