

# Causes & Outbreak

## History, Second World War

Year 10

### Content Description

The causes, outbreak and course of the Second World War and the significance of Australian involvement. (AC9HH10K01)

### VR Learning Activities

**Listening and Understanding:** Students explore the causes and course of World War II, focusing on the rise of fascist regimes, the Treaty of Versailles, and key events leading up to the war. Immersive narration and 3D visuals help students understand how global tensions escalated and led to the outbreak of conflict.

**Interactive Exploration:** In VR, students experience significant historical events, such as the invasion of Poland and the attack on Pearl Harbor. They interact with 3D models of military equipment, maps, and propaganda, gaining insight into the environment and military strategies of the time.

**Questioning and Critical Thinking:** Students are prompted with questions like: "How did the Treaty of Versailles impact Germany?" and "What role did Australia play in World War II?" These open-ended questions guide students to reflect on key events, analyze decisions made by world leaders, and consider Australia's changing role on the global stage.

### Key Learning Areas

**The Causes of World War II:** Understanding the long-term and short-term factors leading to World War II, including the Treaty of Versailles, economic instability, the rise of fascist regimes, and the failure of diplomacy.

**Australia's Involvement in World War II:** Exploring Australia's role in the conflict, including its participation in key battles across Europe, Africa, and the Pacific, and the impact of the war on Australia's national identity.

**The Rise of Fascism and Militarism:** Investigating the political and economic conditions that allowed for the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in Germany, as well as similar movements in Italy and Japan.

**Major Events Leading to World War II:** Analyzing key events like the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, the Spanish Civil War, the Munich Agreement, the annexation of Austria and the Sudetenland, and the invasion of Poland in 1939.

**The Impact of the Treaty of Versailles:** Exploring how the terms of the Treaty of Versailles contributed to the instability in Europe and played a role in the rise of extremist movements in Germany.

**Global Conflict and Military Strategy:** Examining the key battles and military strategies of World War II, including the role of Australia's military forces and the changing nature of warfare.

**National Identity and Civic Responsibility:** Reflecting on how Australia's involvement in the war influenced its national identity, its relationships with Britain and the United States, and its role on the world stage.

**Inquiry and Ethical Reflection:** Encouraging students to think critically about the moral and ethical implications of war, the decisions made by world leaders, and the global consequences of conflict.



