

Australia's Role

History, First World War

Year 9

Content Description

The places of significance where Australians fought, their perspectives and experiences, including the Gallipoli campaign, the Western Front and the Middle East. (AC9HH9K09)

VR Learning Activities

Listening and Understanding: Students are introduced to the key locations where Australians fought during World War I, such as Gallipoli, the Western Front, and the Middle East. Through immersive narration and 3D maps, they learn about the significance of each location, the challenges soldiers faced, and the outcomes of key battles. The VR experience includes vivid 3D visuals—such as maps, soldiers' movements, and major battle sites—that help students understand the terrain, military strategies, and the role of Australian forces in shaping the outcome of these battles.

Interactive Exploration: Students step into a series of richly detailed environments representing the significant battlefields of World War I. They explore the rugged images of Gallipoli, the muddy trenches of the Western Front, and the vast deserts of the Middle East. Students can interact with full-scale models of uniforms, equipment, and weapons used by Australian soldiers.

Questioning and Critical Thinking: Throughout the experience, students are prompted with open-ended questions such as: "What made Gallipoli such a challenging battlefield for Australian soldiers?" or "How did the environment in the Middle East differ from that on the Western Front, and how did this affect military tactics?" These reflective questions guide students to consider the different perspectives of soldiers based on where they fought. Students are encouraged to analyze the significance of each battlefield in the broader context of World War I, think critically about the different experiences of Australian soldiers, and reflect on how these experiences contributed to the development of Australia's national identity.

Key Learning Areas

Key Locations of Australian Involvement: Students will explore significant World War I battlefields such as Gallipoli, the Western Front, and the Middle East, gaining an understanding of their impact on Australia's war efforts.

Military Strategies and Tactics: The learning experience will investigate the military strategies used in each battlefield and how the environment influenced these tactics. Students will explore how terrain and conditions shaped military decisions during key battles.

Soldier Experiences and Challenges: Students will delve into the hardships faced by soldiers, including the physical and emotional challenges of trench warfare, harsh desert environments, and the rugged landscapes of Gallipoli.

Historical Perspectives and Motivations: The experience will investigate the diverse motivations Australians had for enlisting in World War I, such as patriotism, adventure, peer influence, and economic opportunities, while also recognizing the varied perspectives, including those who opposed the war.

Life on the Battlefield: Students will explore the daily life of soldiers in different environments—Gallipoli, the Western Front, and the Middle East—engaging with the equipment, uniforms, and living conditions they experienced.

Historical Source Analysis: Immersive 3D models of uniforms, equipment, and historical objects will engage students in developing critical thinking skills. They will interpret primary sources to understand the broader historical context.

Ethical Reflection and Inquiry: The experience will encourage students to reflect on the ethical dilemmas and moral choices faced by soldiers and civilians during the war, considering the human cost of conflict and the decisions made by governments.

Impact of War on Australian Society: Students will analyze the long-term impact of World War I on Australian society, including the social, cultural, and political changes it brought about, and how these influences are still felt today.



