

Places Australia Fought

History, Second World War

Year 10

Content Description

The places where Australians fought, and their perspectives and experiences during the Second World War, such as the fall of Singapore, prisoners of war (POWs), the Battle of Britain and Kokoda. (AC9HH10K02)

VR Learning Activities

Listening and Understanding: Students are introduced to the key battles involving Australian soldiers during World War II, including the Battle of Singapore, the Battle of Britain, and the Kokoda Campaign. Through immersive narration and 3D maps, students explore the challenges faced by Australian troops, the significance of these battles, and the strategic impact of Australian involvement in the defense of its territories.

Interactive Exploration: In VR, students step into detailed historical environments where they can explore the battlefields of North Africa, the jungles of New Guinea, and the prison camps in Singapore. They interact with 3D models of military equipment, uniforms, and weapons used by Australian soldiers. Students can also engage with real-time maps of the battles, including the Kokoda Track, and virtually experience the harsh conditions faced by both soldiers and prisoners of war.

Questioning and Critical Thinking: Throughout the VR experience, students are prompted with reflective questions such as, "What made the Kokoda Campaign a pivotal moment in the Pacific War?" or "How did the experiences of Australian POWs in Japanese camps differ from those held by German forces?" These open-ended questions encourage students to analyze the emotional and physical challenges of war, critically reflect on the moral implications of warfare, and evaluate the significance of individual and collective experiences in shaping national identity.

Empathy and Personal Reflection: Students explore the personal stories of Australian POWs, listening to accounts of survival, courage, and sacrifice. They are encouraged to empathize with the experiences of those who endured captivity and hardship, offering a deeper understanding of the emotional toll of war. Through this, students can appreciate the resilience and determination of those who fought, and how these experiences contributed to Australia's development as a nation.

National Identity and Legacy: By examining key moments like the defense of New Guinea and the Battle of Britain, students reflect on how these battles reinforced the Anzac legend and contributed to the development of Australia's national identity. Through the immersive experience, they are guided to consider how wartime sacrifices shaped Australia's position in the post-war world.

Key Learning Areas

Significance of Key Battles in World War II: Understanding the pivotal roles of battles such as the fall of Singapore, the Battle of Britain, and the Kokoda Campaign, and how these battles shaped Australia's military strategy and national identity.

Experiences of Australian Soldiers: Exploring the challenges, resilience, and sacrifice of Australian soldiers in diverse environments, from desert warfare in North Africa to jungle combat in the Pacific, and the impact of these experiences on Australian identity.

Prisoners of War (POWs) and Survival Stories: Investigating the hardships faced by Australian POWs, their treatment in Japanese and German camps, and the personal stories of survival, courage, and endurance in captivity.

Impact of Australian Involvement on World War II: Analyzing the strategic importance of Australia's military contributions to key global conflicts, and how these contributions affected Australia's role in the post-war world.

The Anzac Legend and National Identity: Reflecting on how significant events such as the Kokoda Campaign helped reinforce the Anzac legend, contributing to Australia's emerging national identity and the legacy of its military history.

Ethical Reflection and Historical Empathy: Encouraging students to empathize with the diverse experiences of soldiers and POWs, fostering critical thinking about the human cost of war and the ethical dilemmas faced during World War II.



