

WORLD WAR I AND AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

Starting just 13 years after Australia became a nation, World War I was one of the first times we came together as 'Australians'.

After Gallipoli, ANZAC soldiers became known and respected for their courage, endurance and mateship.

But the war also changed society at home, from the role of women to the establishment of organisations to help returned service people.

FINDING OUT

Many Australians joined World War I (WWI) in Europe. Find Europe on a world map.

In 1914 it took 40 days to travel to Europe from Australia. How do travel times differ today?

Talk to an elderly person about the roles their parents played at home. Did both parents go out to work? Which parent mostly looked after the home and cared for the children? How is this the same or different to your family and your friends' families today?

SORTING OUT

When you watch the video, think about the different ways in which Australian women and men contributed during WWI. How did men help the war effort? What things did women do? How were traditional roles for men and women altered after WWI?

Following WWI, meetings were held between world leaders to decide how to keep peace between nations. What do you think about the American President's attitude to the Australian Prime Minister's presence at these meetings? How do you think other world leaders' opinions of Australia changed after WWI? Why do you think opinions of Australia changed?

Related content:

- www.rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years-3---6/World-War-I-and-Australian-society



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TAKING ACTION

Both the RSL and the Australian Red Cross were founded during WWI. Research one or both of these organisations. Find out what kind of work their members do today to support Australians.

Talk to an older person about how you think the experience of WWI caused Australia to 'mature' as a nation. What changes in society were brought about during WWI? How do you feel about these changes?

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TEACHERS' NOTES

View the video with your class. Students can discuss the key points they recall from the video. View it a second time, pausing to prompt further discussion about the key points (e.g. the role of women in society at the time; how this changed following WWI; possible reasons for Australia's involvement; attitudes towards Australia from powerful nations such as the US; challenges faced by Australian families in the aftermath of the war; the establishment of organisations to support returned service people).

Linking with the Maths curriculum, older students could research the number of soldiers engaged in the conflict during WWI. Calculate the number of soldiers who fought, died and returned wounded from each nation as a percentage of that nation's total population. Students can graph this data in various ways. Discuss Australia's contribution to WWI in the light of these statistics. Younger students could participate in similar discussions after viewing and interpreting simple column graphs prepared by older students.

Students could prepare statements or questions about the ways WWI contributed to Australian society and character. Consider contacting your local RSL Sub Branch to invite a member to visit your class and offer their perspective on students' ideas and questions. To find your local RSL Queensland Sub Branch, please visit www.rslqld.org/Contact-Us/Sub-Branches

This resource supports the following Humanities and Social Sciences (History) and Mathematics Content Descriptions:

- ACHASSI059 and 080 Interact with others with respect to share points of view
- ACHASSI095 and 123 Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources
- ACHASSK064 Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems
- ACHASSK137 The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation
- ACMNA072 Recognise, represent and order numbers to at least tens of thousands
- ACMNA129 Multiply decimals by whole numbers and perform divisions by non-zero whole numbers where the results are terminating decimals, with and without digital technologies
- ACMNA131 Make connections between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages
- ACMSP070 Interpret and compare data displays
- ACMSP096 Construct suitable data displays, with and without the use of digital technologies, from given or collected data. Include tables, column graphs and picture graphs where one picture can represent many data values
- ACMSP119 Construct displays, including column graphs, dot plots and tables, appropriate for data type, with and without the use of digital technologies
- ACMSP120 Describe and interpret different data sets in context
- ACMSP147 Interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs for two categorical variables

