

IDEAS FOR SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Some schools and teachers will see ANZAC Day as a stimulus for long term research projects. For others, learning activities will be short term and focused closely on the day itself. All learning activities, should assist children to develop deeper understandings of Curriculum Framework outcomes. The most clearly connected outcomes are the Society and Environment learning area's 'Time Continuity and Change', 'Investigation, Communication and Participation' and 'Active Citizenship' (with its social justice and democratic values) but links can also be drawn with outcomes from the English, Technology and Enterprise, and Arts learning areas.

IDEAS FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL

- Become an active partner in the Government's 'Adopt a Memorial' program.
- Invite Veterans to the school as guest speakers (through your local RSL) and for a 'thank you' morning tea.
- Mount a library display, comprising photographs and artefacts brought from home.
- Create a wall mural or design a 'Peace Garden'.

IDEAS FOR THE PHASES OF SCHOOLING

(a) Early Childhood (NB. Refer to www.anzacday.org.au/education/childhood)

- Tell the story of ANZAC biscuits, make a batch and take them to a local retirement village (the CWA Cook Book and the old Department publication 'Special Days' (p 154) have the recipe).
- Design and create a floral tribute from real or artificial flowers.
- Visit the local war memorial.

(b) Middle Childhood

- Create a diorama of the ANZAC scene.
- Creative writing: news reports, poetry, diaries, letters from home. . .
- Design a poster aimed at encouraging people to enlist in the services.
- Visit Kings Park War Memorial or Karrakatta War Cemetery.

(c) Early Adolescence

- Analyse a film such as Peter Weir's 'Gallipoli'.
- Compose your own wartime song; interpret the lyrics of some popular wartime songs.
- Design some 'Postcards from the Front'.
- Have a class discussion: 'What does the ANZAC spirit mean to me today?'
- Map the major theatres of war for Australia in WW1 and WW2.
- Discuss: courage, fear, loyalty, trust, mateship in the context of war.

(d) Late Adolescence

- Analyse wartime photographs, cartoons, documents, art, poetry.
- Investigate the changing attitudes in Australia towards ANZAC Day over time.
- Debates: 'War is only one way of responding to international disputes'. 'Does anyone really win a war?' 'What is Peace?'
- Prepare and deliver a rousing speech calling for 'men and women of Australia' to enlist. How would this differ today from 1914?
- Compare the understandings and attitudes of soldiers going to war in 1914 with those of today.
- Analyse the changes in military tactics, techniques and hardware from the early 20th Century to now.

