

War Commemorations Lessons

The following lessons are focussed on the theme of war commemorations and are designed to accompany the wreath and medal craft activities and extend the students' learning. They are written for primary students, but can be adjusted to suit lower or higher year levels.

Curriculum Alignment

Humanities and Social Sciences – History

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

- Identifying and exploring the origins of important Australian commemorations.

Humanities and Social Sciences – Civics and Citizenship

Civics and Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding

- Exploring how days of national significance contribute to Australia's identity.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Participating in the lessons will assist students in achieving the following outcomes:

- Students will learn about Australia's military history and involvement.
- Students will consider special days in their lives and devise ways to celebrate or commemorate them.

Lessons Ideas

- Read some examples of war poetry, then select a poem to share with the class. Discuss the messages the poems deliver.
- Write a diary entry from the perspective of a digger in the trenches.
- Research a recipient of the Victoria Cross, including their name, date of birth, battalion, and some facts about them.
- Research the peacekeeping and aide roles played by the Australian Defence Force in conflicts around the world. Discuss as a class how participation in conflicts can be violent or peaceful.
- Read and then complete a book review of *Simpson and his Donkey* by Mark Greenwood.
- Complete a family tree project. Identify any of the students' family members who have served (or are serving) in the Australian Defence Forces.

War Commemorations

- Research and write a report about the role of women in war and how it has changed over time.
- Many events and special occasions are commemorated. Brainstorm the events in students' lives that they would like to commemorate and devise ways to do this.
- Wreaths are often laid at war memorials. Students to find out if their suburb or town has a war memorial, then create some commemorative wreaths to lay there on ANZAC or Remembrance Day.
- Students to view pictures of war bravery medals, then design one of their own.