

Forgotten heroes: Honouring the Service and Sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

- We remember the men and women who joined the Australian Armed Services and served our nation in overseas wars. We especially remember those who gave their lives. What special days, ceremonies, symbols and memorials help us remember?
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women enlisted in the Australian Armed Services to serve during times of war. As was the case with non-Aboriginal servicemen and women, some were killed, wounded or suffered as prisoners of war. It is important we know more about these individuals and recognise and commemorate their efforts.
- War service records, memorials and stories are important in helping us remember today and in the future. By finding records and stories about local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women and passing them on, we contribute to Reconciliation.

Australians remember the men and women who joined the Australian Armed Services and served our nation in overseas wars. We especially remember those who gave their lives. What special days, ceremonies, symbols and memorials help us remember?

Read/view stories about Anzac Day e.g. *My Grandad marches on Anzac Day* to the students. Discuss the significance of this day and date and its origin. Discuss why it is important for us to take part in services and marches on ANZAC Day.

The book *My Grandad marches on Anzac Day*, closes with the child saying "One day I will march on Anzac Day and I will do the remembering." Discuss this statement with the students and make a class chart of reasons provided by students that explain why it is important for children today to be marching and remembering in the future.

Read aloud - "Why are they marching, Daddy?" (see Early Years Resources). Discuss the quotes on page 14 "Daddy, how can we thank these people who have gone to war to make our country safe?" and "One way is to show how proud we are by taking part in ANZAC day activities, replied her father."

Red poppies are a symbol of remembrance. They were the first living things to re-grow on the battlefields of France and Belgium in the First World War. Students make poppies to display in the classroom. Instructions can be found on the War Memorial website, *Education Activities for Students, Make your own poppy*, www.awm.gov.au/education/activities.

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Commemorate means "to keep alive, or to honour, the memory of some person, group or event by a ceremony" (*Their Spirit, Our History (2007)*, Australian War Memorial)

Discuss with students the importance of commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australian men and women. Make a list of the ways in which we do this, i.e. special days (ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day) ceremonies, symbols, memorials, naming of places, streets, reserves and parks etc.

Find out about war memorials, monuments, parks and streets in your local area which have been erected and named to commemorate servicemen and women, wars and conflicts. Plan a walk to record and photograph them. Where possible, and with care and respect for the memorials, make pencil or crayon rubbings of names and symbols on the memorial or plaque.

If unsure of war memorials in your area, listings and photographs can be found on the RSL website for South Australia, www.tributesofhonour.info or the Australian War Memorial website, www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/australia_memorials.asp.

Create a class book using photographs of memorials and commemorative places. Assist students to record the name(s) of servicemen and women inscribed on the local war memorial or commemorative site. Where possible identify the names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women recorded on the local memorial. Names may be checked against the South Australian and Northern Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nominal roll, www.tributesofhonour.info or on the RSL website www.rslsa.org.au.

Photocopy, download or ask students to bring copies of photographs of family servicemen and women (arrange to photocopy originals) for class use. Create a class collage using the photos and attach a statement of remembrance written by students.

Stories are important for maintaining and sharing history. Contribute to Reconciliation by speaking to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans to hear their stories. Consider how their stories can be recorded and shared.

Arrange for veterans and community members (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples where possible) to share their stories and experiences of war service and war efforts. Record, film, photograph or write their stories. Be mindful that you will need to guide students in asking respectful, sensitive and open ended questions. Pre-select appropriate questions and respect the fact that some veterans may prefer not to discuss aspects of their experiences.



Curriculum Links

South Australia Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework (SACSA)

- Society and Environment & English
- Equity Cross Curriculum Perspectives – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives
- Essential Learnings – Futures, Identity, Interdependence, Thinking, Communication

Australian Curriculum: History

Australian Curriculum: English

- General Capabilities
- Cross Curriculum Perspectives – Indigenous perspectives

Early Year Resources

Fiction/Picture books

Burke, D. & Alger, E. (2004). *Why are they marching, Daddy?*, ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee Inc, Queensland.

Hoy, C. & Johnson, B. (2008). *My grandad marches on Anzac Day*, Lothian Children's Books.

Krok, L. (1992). *The Anzacs*, Jacaranda Press - Jacaranda young inquirers, Milton, Qld.

Lockyer, J. (1997). *Harry and the Anzac poppy*, Reed for Kids, Dingley, Vic.

South Australian War memorials

SA and NT War Memorials
www.tributesofhonour.info

Australian War Memorial
www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/australia_memorials.asp

Other online resources

Scoutle Digital Learning Resources
www.scoutle.edu.au/ec/p/home

Tape Services Online
www.tapeservices.sa.edu.au

