

Australia's involvement in WWI: Enlistment and the Gallipoli campaign

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity71>

Engage

Historical context and Australia's choice to support Britain in WWI

- ➔ Click on the URL above to open the Story Map (with built-in interactive maps). A Story Map will open, displaying the title page. Scroll down to get started.
- ➔ Read through the first section titled *Historical Context*. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ➔ Read through the next section titled *Australia's response*. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ➔ Read through the next section titled *Enlistment*. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ➔ Read through the next section titled *Why did Australians enlist?* Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ? Observe the propaganda poster titled *Which picture would your father like to show his friends?* After observing the two men in the poster, identify what attributes each man displays and explain how posture and clothing reinforces these attributes. *[In the propaganda poster, the soldier exudes a sense of duty, pride and courage, which is reinforced by his straight and upright posture, his proud chest and his purposeful steps forward, towards war. The civilian figure is depicted in upper-class recreational dress and is depicted as relaxing, whilst enjoying all the comforts of home: books, sports and alcohol. From this, the man comes across as selfish, lazy and a lesser man.]*
- ? Identify and explain two ways this propaganda poster exerts pressure on young Australian men to sign up to the war effort. *[The propaganda poster exerts pressure on young Australian men to enlist by providing a clear juxtaposition between a desirable image of what a man should be doing and an undesirable image of what a man should not be looking to do. In this, the poster encourages men to respond to a sense of duty, whilst discouraging them to stay at home by*

Download student worksheet [here](#).

Time
60 minutes

Activity

Investigate Australian enlistment in WWI and the involvement of Anzac forces at Gallipoli.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Identify reasons Australia supported the war
- Examine how propaganda influenced enlistment
- Examine the nature of warfare during World War I, and the places Australians fought
- Examine and analyse sources

ACARA Curriculum Link

[Year 9 History: World War I \(1914-1918\)](#)

[ACDSEH021](#) | [ACDSEH095](#) | [ACDSEH097](#) | [ACHHS164](#) | [ACHHS165](#) | [ACHHS169](#) | [ACHHS170](#) | [ACHHS172](#)

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

attaching connotations of social disapproval to those that don't enlist.]

- ➔ Read through the next section titled *Training and Transport to war zones*. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.

Explore

The Gallipoli campaign and source work

- ➔ Scroll down to the next section titled *The Gallipoli Campaign*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ➔ Scroll down to the next section titled *The Dardanelles Campaign*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- Explore the map by opening the Legend to see what the map symbols represent. As per the instructions on the Story map, zoom out and pan the map to the north to view the path Allied ships were hoping to make to the Black Sea, in order to make contact with their ally, Russia.
- ➔ Scroll down to the next section titled *The Plan*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- Explore the map by opening the Legend to see what the map symbols represent.
- ➔ Scroll down to the slideshow titled *The Gallipoli campaign*. Read the information on each slide and click the arrow icon to the right to move between slides. The slideshow contains source excerpts. Answer the questions in this document that relate to each source.
- ? Read the source titled: **An Australian soldier's perspective and account of landing at Gallipoli**. Identify two features of the fighting experienced by Anzacs as they landed on Gallipoli. Support your response with direct evidence from the source. *[Although the Anzacs had a strategic plan for landing on the shore, this seemingly went out the window. Instead, the landing and fighting was characterized by disorder, panic and desperation. This disorder and panic would have begun before soldiers even reached shore, as they sat as sitting ducks in boats, open to the enemy's withering machine gun fire. This panic would have increased as the soldier mentions that they could not see the Turks firing upon them at first. The desperation of the fighting is seen in the fact that men had to traverse waist-deep water to get to some form of safety on the beach. Once on the beach, panic, disorder and desperation would have continued as, "there was no cover from bullets," and, "the machine gun and rifle fire was deafening."]*
- ? Read the source titled: **An Australian soldier's perspective and account of**

landing at Gallipoli. Despite the significant opposition the Anzacs faced, what evidence exists in the Australian soldier's account that the soldiers were brave and determined? *[The Australian soldier mentions that before even reaching the shore, "a great many of our fellows were hit, some fatally." Despite the carnage that was already occurring before the soldiers even got to shore he goes on to state that even, "in the face of a murderous fire, machine gun and rifle and not a man flinched," demonstrating the bravery and determination soldiers displayed.]*

? Read the source titled: **Description of the Anzac landing by Sir Ian Hamilton.** How does Sir Ian Hamilton describe the Anzac landing on Gallipoli? How did this contradict the previous source? *[Sir Ian Hamilton describes the Anzac landing on Gallipoli as an overwhelming success, describing that the Turks were not able to withstand the Anzac onslaught. This significantly contradicts the Australian soldier's perspective as the Australian soldier states almost the exact opposite, suggesting that the Turks far outnumbered the Anzacs and that the Turks had superior positioning, which allowed them to pick off Anzacs easily.]*

? Why might the two accounts of the same event differ? *[The two accounts most likely differ as they are told from a soldier's perspective and a commander's perspective. The soldier landed on Gallipoli and experienced fire from Turks first-hand whereas, Commander Ian Hamilton likely viewed the events from a ship out to sea as he would need to oversee the landing from a vantage point. Sir Ian Hamilton may also depict the events in such a positive light for a few secondary reasons: to portray himself and his strategy in a positive way, or to encourage and embolden troops under his command.]*

Explain

The importance of multiple perspectives - sourcework

? Read the source titled: **Diary entry written by anonymous Australian Private.** This account describes the successful taking of the mountain peaks at a dreadful cost. What is the cost of this success? Refer to evidence from the source in your response. *[Although the private documents Anzac success at gaining access to the mountain tops and pushing the Turks back, he also states this it came at great cost. Along with other soldiers, he was charged with returning to the beach to retrieve more ammunition for the frontline. It is in this account that he describes the terrible cost of their success as the significant loss of life that took place: "...oh God the sight of the dead and wounded absolutely covering the little sandy beach...it is absolutely impossible to attend to all, so that many a life...expires on the beach for want of looking after."]*

? Read the source titled: **A Turkish perspective of events.** Why is it important to have access to sources from both sides of the war? *[It is important to have access*

to sources from multiple perspectives and multiple sides of the war as it allows one to corroborate evidence and events that took place. For example, this Turkish perspective corroborates the accounts of the two Australian soldiers in that it refers to the fighting as hellish and that many lives were lost.]

? Read the source titled: **A Turkish perspective of events**. How else is this source useful to historians? *[This perspective is useful to historians as it provides insight into events and feelings on the Turkish homefront. It communicates the worry and fear that both soldiers and their families felt before the men left for the frontline. It also creates an empathy that reminds historians, and a wider audience, that the cost of World War I was significant for both sides and that the war's effects were destructive.]*

→ Complete the slideshow.

→ Scroll down to the next section titled *Events at Anzac Cove and Lone Pine*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.

Extend

Summary of the Gallipoli campaign and the birth of the Anzac Legend

→ Scroll down to the next section titled *Summary of the Gallipoli campaign*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.

→ Scroll down to the next section titled *The Anzac Legend was born*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.

? In your own words, define what it means to be an Anzac. *[Answers will vary but should make reference to a combination of features: courage, loyal, sense of duty, mateship, sense of humour, etc.]*

? Read the quote from Charles Bean. How does Charles Bean touch on the character of the Anzac? *[Official war correspondent Charles Bean touches on the character of the Anzac by referring to the "mettle of the men," or the inner strength and courage that defined them. He acknowledges that these men valued their lives but suggests that other factors were more important than their own lives at war. Bean touches on the importance of mateship and of being able to trust in the men on either side of them, which gave them a grit to carry on, so as not to let them down.]*

Next Steps:

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