

# Activities

1. Find your local war memorial and look at the soldiers' names who went to World War 1.
2. Look around your classroom. Count the boys and also include the teacher if a male, and any other male staff. If you could imagine that nearly 40% of all adult Australian males went to the First World War in Europe. Of these who went to the war 50% were either killed or seriously injured – soldiers did not come back and many that did were seriously hurt!
3. Questions:
  - a. Australia was a different place in 1914 to 2016. Most of the new settlers had come from Britain. Most Australians saw Britain as their mother country! How did this affect how Australia saw the war?
  - b. Most young men wanted to become soldiers. Why did they want to join? List three possible reasons.
  - c. Research Wikipedia or the Australian War Museum website <https://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/ww1/> for more information. How was this war in Europe different from previous wars? What was trench warfare and why did this take place?
  - d. Aboriginal young men wanted to join to fight in World War 1. Why were they stopped from joining? How did they manage to join?

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4. See the map of Europe and study the countries and the sides the countries took!



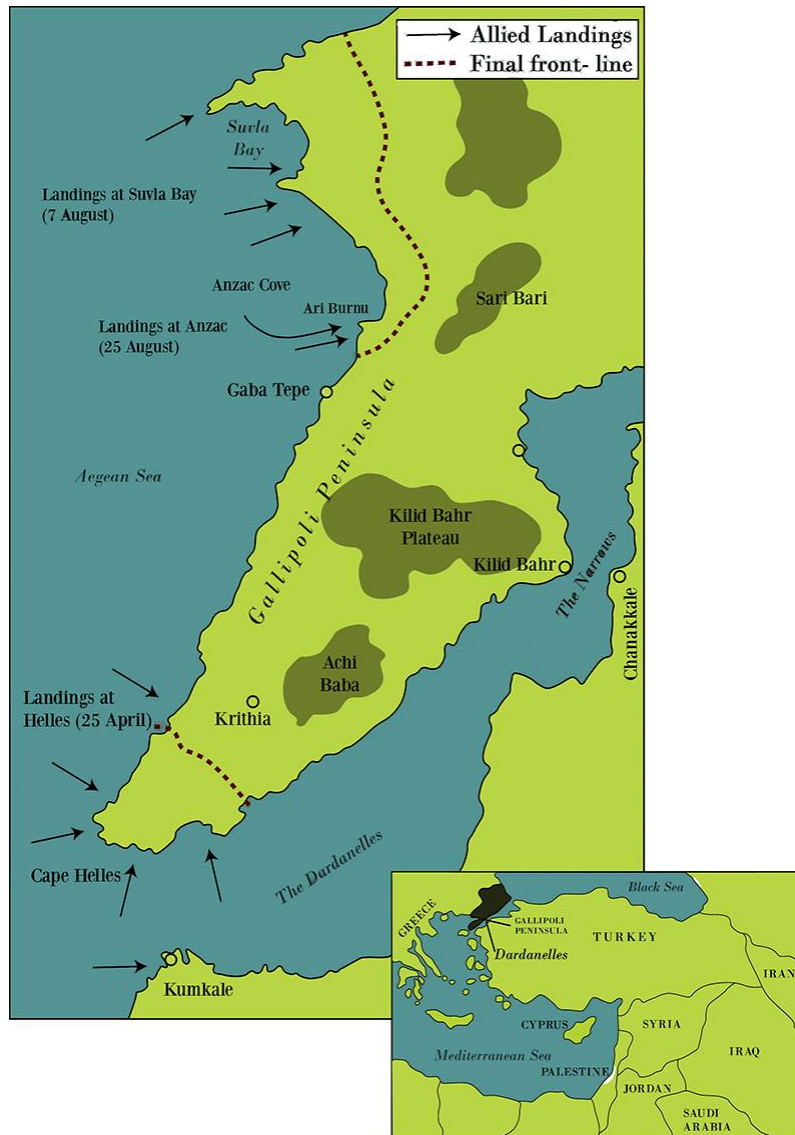
- What European countries were allied (friends) with Germany?
- What does neutral mean? What did this mean in choosing sides?
- Which European countries were neutral?
- Australia fought with the United Kingdom. What other countries were allied with the United Kingdom?

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#### 5. Gallipoli activities:



- Study the map on this page. It shows the position of Turkey and its neighbour Greece. The Dardanelles was very important for the war effort as it led up to a Russian port. Russia as an ally of Great Britain could then obtain a continual stream of goods and was not stopped during the winter from frozen lakes and oceans. The Australian and New Zealand troops under British command were required to land on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The troops came from Britain, New Zealand and Australia (ANZACS). The Turkish army rushed to the peninsula and had the higher ground. The ANZACS would never control the higher ground and therefore the front line became a series of trenches where the Turkish soldiers could look down on the ANZACS. Discuss what was wrong with the plan of attack.
- Find Turkey on your maps. Look for the Gallipoli Peninsula in the Dardanelles. Why do you think the British wanted to capture this area? Why did Russia need to use this waterway?

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- c. What side was Turkey on in the war? Why? You need to search online for this answer.
- d. Turkey received weapons from Germany. Why did this make it difficult for the ANZAC soldiers?
- e. Review the image of the Turkish soldier below. What is the weapon he is using? What does it do and how would it have been used against the ANZACs?



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6. Study a map of Syria and Lebanon to look at the location of the Light Horse regiment battles.
7. Villers Bretonneux:
  - a. Use your map program to find the village of Villers Bretonneux.
  - b. Why is Villers Bretonneux remembered as an important World War 1 battle for Australia?
  - c. Which battle should be the important one for ANZAC Day – Villers Bretonneux or Gallipoli? What are your reasons? Discuss with your group.
8. Who won World War 1? Do you think it was a great victory for Britain and France? What was the cost? In your opinion was it worth the cost?
9. How many Australians went to war? How many were injured and died? Why do you think there were so many Australians killed? How did General Monash change the way war was fought?
10. What were the three areas Aboriginal soldiers were in battles during World War 1?
11. What happened to the Aboriginal soldiers who went to World War 1? Were they given the same treatment as other ex-soldiers? Were they offered soldiers' settlement land?
12. Enquire as to the location of your local war memorial to the First World War soldiers. Search for information on local Aboriginal soldiers who went to World War 1.