20 Lives Through 20 Objects (Stage 5 & 6)

Curriculum Outcomes and Content Links

Current NSW Curriculum (until end of 2026)

STAGE 5

Core Study - Depth Study 3: Australians at War: World Wars I and II (1914-1918, 1939-1945)

OUTCOMES

explains and assesses the historical forces and factors that shaped the modern world and Australia HT5 1

- sequences and explains the significant patterns of continuity and change in the development of the modern world and Australia HT5 2
- explains and analyses the causes and effects of events and developments in the modern world and Australia HT5 4
- identifies and evaluates the usefulness of sources in the historical inquiry process
 HT5 5
- explains different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the modern world and Australia HT5 7
- applies a range of relevant historical terms and concepts when communicating an understanding of the past HT5 9
- selects and uses appropriate oral, written, visual and digital forms to communicate effectively about the past for different audiences HT5 10

CONTENT

An overview of the causes of the wars, why men enlisted and where Australians fought (ACDSEH021, ACDSEH095, ACDSEH024)

Students:

- outline the main causes of both wars
- locate and sequence the places where Australians fought in both wars
- explain why Australians enlisted to fight in both wars

The scope and nature of warfare (ACDSEH095, ACDSEH107)

Students:

- describe the nature of warfare during the Gallipoli campaign (workshop touches on the Gallipoli Landing, the Battle of Lone Pine, the Battle of Hill 60)
- explain the outcome of the Gallipoli campaign

Significant events and the experiences of Australians at war (ACDSEH108)

- using sources, students investigate the following features of each war:
 - a specific campaign, e.g. the Western Front 1916
 - the role of women (workshop explores the role of nurses and matrons)
 - participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (workshop explores the story of Private William Allan Irwin)
 - a specific event/incident (workshop explores numerous battles at Gallipoli, on the Western Front, and in the Eastern Campaigns, e.g. the Battle of Beersheba).

Significance of the wars to Australia (ACDSEH110) Students:

• explain the impact of the wars on returned soldiers/civilians

Commemorations and the nature of the ANZAC legend (ACDSEH097)

Students:

- explain how and why Australians have commemorated the wars
- explain different perspectives on the Anzac legend

STAGE 6 - MODERN HISTORY

SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD Topic 5: World War I

OUTCOMES CONTENT

- describes the nature of continuity and change in the modern world MH11-1
- proposes ideas about the varying causes and effects of events and developments MH11-2
- analyses the role of historical features, individuals, groups and ideas in shaping the past MH11-3
- accounts for the different perspectives of individuals and groups MH11-4
- examines the significance of historical features, people, ideas, movements, events and developments of the modern world MH11-5
- analyses and interprets different types of sources for evidence to support an historical account or argument MH11-6
- discusses and evaluates differing interpretations and representations of the past MH11-7
- plans and conducts historical investigations and presents reasoned conclusions, using relevant evidence from a range of sources MH11-8
- communicates historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms, in appropriate and well-structured forms MH11-

- the nature of World War I, including:
 - the outbreak of war in 1914, the Western and Eastern fronts, and why it became the world's first global conflict
 - the varying experiences of soldiers in key battles, eg Verdun, the Somme, Passchendaele, Tannenberg, Beersheba
 - the changing nature of war to 1918: scientific and industrial developments in weaponry, the mechanisation of modern warfare, advances in medicine and communications
 - the impact of the war on civilians, including women's lives and the changing role of women (ACHMH064)
 - the scale of recruitment, conscription, censorship and propaganda in World War I
 - an overview of the reasons for the Allied victory
 - the idea of 'total war', the end of 'empire', and World War I as 'the war to end all wars'
- the nature and legacy of World War I and its influence on modernity

Investigating Modern History – The Nature of Modern History 5. The Representation and Commemoration of the Past

- analyses and interprets different types of sources for evidence to support an historical account or argument MH11-6
- discusses and evaluates differing interpretations and representations of the past MH11-7
- communicates historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms, in appropriate and well-structured forms MH11-9
- discusses contemporary methods and issues involved in the investigation of modern history MH11-10

Students investigate:

- the public nature of history and the uses of history
- how history is represented through ONE of the following: memorials, museums, the media, film, documentaries and online
- the need for critical analysis of representations of the past and historical methods that can be used for this purpose
- the various ways the past is commemorated, including the role of key influences, eg nationalism and nation-building