The Past Is Present (Stage 5)

Curriculum Outcomes and Content Links

Current NSW Curriculum (until end of 2026)

STAGE 6 – MODER	N HISTORY
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SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD Topic 5: World War I

OUTCOMES

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-

CONTENT

- 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