Anzac Day

ANZAC Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing – it is the day we remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

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ANZAC Day is the day that Australians remember those who fought and died in all wars, from the New Zealand War in 1863 to conflicts of today, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

Each year on 25th April we remember, in particular, the landing on Gallipoli in 1915 and honour the spirit of the original ANZACs. This spirit, with its human qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

On ANZAC Day the service and sacrifice of veterans is acknowledged in ceremonies held in towns and cities across the nation, and the ever-growing attendances testify to ANZAC Day's significance for all Australians.
What does ANZAC stand for?

The acronym "ANZAC" stands for "Australian and New Zealand Army Corps".

THE ORIGIN OF ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day commemorates the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the shores of Gallipoli at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915. The Australian and New Zealand soldiers were part of a largely British force that also contained troops from France, India, and Newfoundland.

On 25 April the allies began an attack on the Ottoman Empire (now Turkey), which was fighting on Germany's side. This action began an eight-month campaign in which tens of thousands of soldiers lost their lives and thousands more were injured. The campaign ended with the evacuation of all allied troops in January 1916.

Although the Gallipoli campaign was unsuccessful, every year, on the anniversary of the landing, Australians honour the courage of those who fought and commemorate the sacrifice of those who died during the campaign. On this day - ANZAC Day - Australians also commemorate those who fought and lost their lives in all wars.
WHY THE AUSTRALIANS WERE AT GALLIPOLI

By _______ the fighting on the Western Front was deadlocked and lines of German troops faced French and British forces from Switzerland to the _______ Channel. Russia was fighting on the side of Britain, France and Belgium, and the Ottoman Empire became an ally of the Germans.

The Gallipoli campaign began as a naval operation, with British and French _______ sent to attack Constantinople (now Istanbul), in the hope this would force Turkey out of the war. It failed when the ships were unable to force a way through minefields, protected by _______ and guns, in the Dardanelles straits. A third of the battleships were sunk or disabled on a single day, 18 March 1915. A fresh plan was devised: an army under General Sir Ian Hamilton would occupy the _______ peninsula and open up the Dardanelles for the passage of the navy. The plan was for British troops to capture Cape Helles, the southern point of the peninsula, and advance from there. Meanwhile, the Australians and _______ would land on the western coast.

English
New Zealanders
1915
warships
Gallipoli

forts
In your books:

Answer the following questions:
(No need to write the questions)

1. What do the letters "ANZAC" stand for?
2. What happened on 25th April 1915?
3. When do we observe Anzac Day?
4. Why do we observe Anzac Day?

Jack Simpson Kirkpatrick

a). When did Jack fill out this post card?

b). How long had he been at Gallipoli at this stage?

c). Was Jack well when he filled out the post card?

d). Why do you think that the card would be destroyed if anything else was added to the card?
Gallipoli and the Dardanelles Strait in modern Turkey

Dawn breaks at Gallipoli

THOUSANDS of Australians gathered in the pre-dawn gloom at Gallipoli today to mark 92 years since the ill-fated landing of troops at Anzac Cove.

As dawn approached, flags flew at half mast as ceremonial parties marched into the area where the solemn service was conducted.

Vice Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, read the words of Australia's official historian at Gallipoli, Charles Bean, to help recreate the fateful day.

"Under the sky it could be seen definitely for the first time since the set of the moon the dark shape of land," he read.

"Every brain in the boat was throbbing with intense anxiety of the moment ... The suspense was almost unbearable."

"They were men who their countries could ill afford to lose."

New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters painted a moving picture of the Anzac campaign, and urged a commitment to peace.

"The survivors found themselves pinned down on the cruelly exposed beach, which was soon strewn with wounded and dead."

Mr Peters urged the thousands gathered in the morning dark to remember the hardships and deprivations the soldiers endured during the eight-month campaign on the Gallipoli peninsula, from food shortages to snipers, disease and the constant barrage of artillery.

Australian Defence Minister Brendan Nelson told the service that the Anzac spirit could shine a light into the dark corners of the world.

"Let us as Australians shine that light into dark corners of the world as an outward-looking, compassionate and confident people imbued with the Anzac spirit of endurance, courage and selfless determination to help others," Mr Nelson said.

During his speech, Mr Nelson read several epitaphs from the gravestones of Australian soldiers.

"Family epitaphs to the dead in so few words say so much of love, of life, loss and us."

"With awkward humility we pause here at Gallipoli, free and confident heirs to the legacy borne of idealism and forged in self-sacrifice."

The Royal Australian Air Force's principal air chaplain, Stephen de Plater, said a prayer for peace.

The congregation remained on its feet for the national anthems of Turkey, New Zealand and Australia.

The Anzac Cove dawn service ended with the departure of the catafalque party, watched by thousands of Australians, many swathed in Australian flags and wearing gold beanies.

Following the end of the Anzac Cove service, dignitaries and onlookers made their way up the hill to the former battlefield and cemetery at Lone Pine, where another service was to be held.
THEIR memories live on ... Blake Morgan, 12, is marching today to honour his great uncle Pierce Patrick Morrisey (above right) and great grandfathers Arthur John Kneller (middle) and Reginald Joffre Bush (below right).

**Blake's Anzac Day poem**

This is the poem written by 12-year-old Blake Morgan to commemorate Anzac Day and honour his Digger ancestors.

Lest we forget? Lest we forget what? 
The beach, the bush and the freedom I've got! 
It's always been here, since I was a boy. 
My clothes, my friends, my family, my toys! 
I live by the beach, enjoy the sand and the sea. 
There could be no better place to live for me. 
The restrictions I have, in a life full of fun, 
Are only restricted by my dad and mum! 
The things they have seen, the lessons they have learned! 
They will instill them in me, and their trust I will earn! 
For they know the past, and the stories of old. 
Stories that must forever be told! 
Stories of courage, of strength and determination. 
Stories that have moulded and shaped this great nation! 
Stories about heroes, about good men and women. 
Stories that give me the great life that I am living! 
But sadly, I know, these heroes I will never meet! 
Still I will march in their memory, on their day, 
Down George Street!

I will march for the heroes that didn't come home 
And I know I'll be marching for the ones left alone! 
My great grandads were there, left behind the ones 
that they loved! 
So I could live in this great land and live the life that I love! 
One grandpa came home and one grandpa laid to rest. 
So proudly I wear both their medals on my chest! 
I thank you my heroes, from the bottom of my heart. 
The young men the donkey, with his master and cart! 
Be proud of yourselves and hold your heads high, 
Enjoy what you have saved from your perch in the sky! 
Anzacs they call you and Anzacs you are 
God please love the Anzacs because two are my pas.
WAR & IDENTITY

Education

What happened to Smithy?
An Interactive History Mystery

Charge at Beersheba
An Interactive Look at the Australian Light Horse

Who am I?

Battlefield Casualties
An Interactive Experience
Explore the treasures in this suitcase and learn about one family's military memories.

Explore this interactive to learn about military uniforms worn by Australians in World War 2.
Most women did some voluntary work.

We knitted socks for the boys overseas, or baked them cakes, or raised money to help schools that had been damaged in countries where there was fighting.

It felt good to be able to help our own brothers and fathers who were fighting.

Women in War

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