TEACHER GUIDE

Gallipoli Uncovered

Overview

What it is: a five-lesson Anzac Day unit, 20 to 30 minutes each, for secondary students, Years 11 to 13 (ages about 15 to 18). The backbone is cause and effect: why the war started, why New Zealand joined, why Gallipoli was tried and why it failed, why so many died, and what it changed. The family search makes it personal.

#	LESSON	THE BIG QUESTION	TIME	WEIGHT	SHEET
1	Why New Zealand went to war	Why did New Zealanders sail to a war on the other side of the world?	25 min	Light	Sheet 1
2	The Gallipoli landing and why it failed	Why did the Allies attack Gallipoli, and why didn't it work?	25 to 30 min	Light	Sheet 2
3	Life at Gallipoli and who served	What was it like at Anzac, and who was there?	25 to 30 min	Heavier: see age guide	Sheet 3
4	Coming home, what it changed, and finding your soldier	How did Gallipoli end, what did it cost, and what did it change for New Zealand?	30 min	Heavier: see age guide	Sheet 4
5	Anzac Day, the poppy and the Dawn Service	Why do we still remember, and how?	25 min	Light	Sheet 5

Before you start: send the letter home a week ahead. Build the class roll before Lesson 4. Each pair needs a device for Lessons 1 and 4.

Total time: about 2 hours of lessons, plus 15 minutes to build the roll, plus an optional cemetery visit.

Timetable, April 2027

DATE (2027)	WHAT
Mon 15 March	Send the letter home. Ask for names back by Friday 19 March.
Mon 22 March	Lesson 1: Why New Zealand went to war
Wed 24 March	Lesson 2: The Gallipoli landing and why it failed

DATE (2027)	WHAT
Thu 25 March	Teacher: build the class roll of honour from the names (about 15 minutes)
Fri 26 to Tue 30 March	Good Friday, Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday: no school
Wed 31 March	Lesson 3: Life at Gallipoli and who served
Fri 2 April	Lesson 4: Coming home, what it changed, and finding your soldier
Tue 6 April	Lesson 5: Anzac Day, the poppy and the Dawn Service
Thu 8 or Fri 9 April	Optional: cemetery visit, or share the roll of honour at a school Anzac assembly. Term 1 ends Friday 9 April.
Fri 23 April	Poppy Day (school holidays)
Sun 25 April	Anzac Day. Dawn Services in the school holidays. Families may go together.
Mon 26 April	Public holiday (Anzac Day observed, because 25 April is a Sunday). Still the school holidays.
Tue 27 April	Term 2 starts. Optional 10 minutes: who went to a service? What did you notice?

Term dates: Ministry of Education: School terms and holidays. Term 1 2027 ends Friday 9 April; the holidays run 10 to 26 April; Term 2 starts Tuesday 27 April. Poppy Day is the Friday before Anzac Day (NZHistory: The red poppy). Check your own school calendar: Term 1 start dates vary by school.

Curriculum links

- **Secondary History:** the unit asks students to weigh evidence, compare sources and explain cause and effect. It suits NCEA History research.
- **Primary sources:** students work from Online Cenotaph records, Archives New Zealand service files and troopship lists.
- **Interpretation:** the Gallipoli figures have changed over time (about 8,500, then 16,000 to 18,000, then 22,479 in The Anzacs Roll Call). Students can test why.

Gallipoli Uncovered is pitched at secondary students, Years 11 to 13 (ages about 15 to 18). Check your own course outlines for the standards that fit. Kura using Te Marautanga o Aotearoa can link the same work to Te Takanga o te Wā.

Age guide

Designed for secondary students, Years 11 to 13 (ages about 15 to 18). Real numbers, primary sources and evidence to weigh, with a focus on people and choices rather than violence. It suits NCEA History research.

LESSON	SUITABILITY	TEACHER NOTE
1 Why NZ went to war	Light	No upsetting content. Some students may have family in recent conflicts; keep it historical.
2 The landing	Light	Talk about the plan and the land, not wounds. Present Ottoman soldiers as people defending their home.
3 Life at Gallipoli	Heavier	Mentions disease, the dead and the truce to bury them. Avoid graphic quotes. Chunuk Bair is optional: "many were killed or wounded" is enough; go further only if the class is ready.
4 Coming home and your soldier	Heavier	Death numbers, and a student may find their own relative died. Prepare them: "Some of the men we find did not come home." Give a quiet way out. Check on students with recent loss in the family, or from refugee or war-affected backgrounds, before the lesson.
5 Anzac Day	Light	Reflective. Keep it about remembering, not celebrating war.

Handling death and injury

- Use plain, calm words: "died", "was wounded". No graphic detail.
- Numbers are people: link each number to families and towns, then move on to how they are remembered.
- Let students choose another soldier from the class roll if their own is too close to home.
- Tell families in the letter home what the unit covers.

Shorter option for a busy term

- Teach lessons 1, 4 and 5 only.
- Use the presentation PDF to set the scene, then go straight to the records.
- Finish with the Ode at your school assembly.

Extension: weigh the evidence

- Each lesson has an extension task in the teacher guide.
- Compare the official figures. For decades about 8,500 New Zealanders were said to have served at Gallipoli. Later research put it at 16,000 to 18,000. The Anzacs Roll Call counts 22,479. Why do the numbers differ, and which evidence is strongest?

- Explore the ship audit: check which troopships carried your soldier and how the records were matched.
- Open a soldier's full service file at Archives New Zealand and find details the site does not show.
- Check a fact: find it on NZHistory and one other source, and say if they agree.
- Work out a scale comparison with your own local park (see the facts page).

LESSON 1 · 25 MIN · LIGHT

Why New Zealand went to war

Summary

Big question: Why did New Zealanders sail to a war on the other side of the world?

Key events:

- 28 June 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand shot in Sarajevo
- 4 August 1914: Britain declares war on Germany after Germany invades Belgium
- 5 August 1914: the news is read out at Parliament in Wellington
- 16 October 1914: the Main Body sails from Wellington

What happened and why: A murder in Europe set off a chain of alliances. Germany invaded Belgium, so Britain declared war. New Zealand was part of the British Empire, so it was at war too. Most people saw Britain as "home" and thousands volunteered. Māori leaders such as Āpirana Ngata and Māui Pōmare pushed for Māori to serve. Some iwi who had lost land to the Crown did not want to fight for it.

Students will be able to:

- Explain, as a chain of "because" and "so", how a murder in Sarajevo led to New Zealanders sailing to war.
- Give two reasons people volunteered, and one reason some people did not.
- Find a soldier on theanzacs.co.nz who sailed on 16 October 1914.

Time: 25 min. **Materials:** Projector for the presentation PDF (slides 1 to 3); Student sheet 1 (one per student); Devices for pairs, opened at theanzacs.co.nz.

Student sheet: Lesson 1 sheet (print or save as PDF) · PDF

Steps

3 min	Hook. Show slide 2 of the presentation PDF. Ask: "About 9 in every 100 New Zealanders served overseas. How many of our class would that be?" (For 30 students, about 3.)
8 min	Tell the story of 1914 as a chain: Sarajevo, alliances, Belgium, Britain, Empire, New Zealand. Students fill in the chain boxes on sheet 1 as you go.

6 min	Why did people go? Pairs sort the reason cards on the sheet into “reasons to go” and “reasons not to go”. Share two of each.
6 min	Site task. In pairs, open the home page search and type a common surname (for example Smith or Brown). Find a man whose embarkation date is 16 October 1914. Write his name, unit and ship.
2 min	Exit question: “New Zealand went to war because…”

Discussion prompts, with model answers

- **Did New Zealand choose to go to war?**
  Not on its own. As part of the British Empire it was at war when Britain declared war. But people did choose to volunteer, and the government chose to send a force.
- **Why might a young man in 1914 want to go?**
  Loyalty to Britain and the Empire, anger at the attack on Belgium, adventure and travel, mates going, wanting to do his duty. For some Māori, to show Māori belonged and to uphold the mana of their iwi.
- **Why might some people not want to go?**
  Fear, family and farm needs, beliefs against war. Some iwi, such as many in Waikato and Taranaki, had lost land to the Crown and did not feel they owed it a debt.

Sheet answers

- Chain: Franz Ferdinand shot (June 1914) → alliances pull in Russia, Germany and France → Germany invades Belgium → Britain declares war (4 August) → New Zealand, part of the Empire, is at war (5 August NZ time) → volunteers sail (16 October).
- Reasons to go: help Britain, protect Belgium, adventure, mates, duty, show Māori belonged. Reasons not to go: family, fear, beliefs, land loss.
- Site task: any man with embarkation date 16 October 1914. The directory lists 8,338 of them.

Misconceptions to watch for

- “New Zealand was attacked.” It was not. (A New Zealand force did occupy German Samoa in August 1914.)
- “Everyone wanted to go.” Many did, but not all. Conscription came later, in 1916.
- “The war was against Türkiye from the start.” The Ottoman Empire only joined in November 1914.

Younger or less confident readers

Use only the chain and the picture of the ships. Do the site search together on the projector.

Extension

Read the NZ Parliament page on the 1914 announcement. Write a short paragraph from the point of view of someone in the crowd, and one from someone who stayed away. What pressures shaped each choice?

Sources: NZHistory: New Zealand enters the First World War; NZHistory: First World War timeline; NZ Parliament: War announced on the steps of Parliament; NZHistory: Main Body of NZEF sails to war; NZHistory: Māori Contingent at Gallipoli; NZHistory: Māori resistance to conscription; NZHistory: First World War by the numbers

LESSON 2 · 25 TO 30 MIN · LIGHT

The Gallipoli landing and why it failed

Summary

Big question: Why did the Allies attack Gallipoli, and why didn't it work?

Key events:

- November 1914: the Ottoman Empire joins the war on Germany's side
- 18 March 1915: three Allied battleships sunk by mines in the Dardanelles
- 25 April 1915: the Anzac landing
- May to July 1915: stalemate in the trenches

What happened and why: The Allies wanted to push warships through the Dardanelles, capture Constantinople and open a sea route to Russia. Mines stopped the ships, so soldiers were sent to take the land beside the strait. The Anzacs landed about 2 km from the planned spot, under steep cliffs. Ottoman soldiers defended their homeland strongly. Neither side could push the other back, so both dug in.

Students will be able to:

- Explain the Allied plan in one sentence.
- Give two reasons the landing did not succeed.
- Compare the size of the Anzac area with a place they know in New Zealand.

Time: 25 to 30 min. **Materials:** Presentation PDF, slide 3; Student sheet 2; A local map or Google Maps on the projector, to measure 900 metres from the school.

Student sheet: Lesson 2 sheet (print or save as PDF) · PDF

Steps

4 min	Show a map of the Dardanelles. Ask: why would anyone want this narrow strip of water? (It leads from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea and Russia.)
6 min	Tell the plan and its failure as cause and effect: ships blocked by mines, so an army lands; wrong beach, cliffs and strong defence, so the army is stuck.
10 min	Scale task on sheet 2. Measure about 900 metres from the school gate on a map. That was the deepest the Anzac line got from the beach. Then compare the Anzac area with Hagley Park or the

	Auckland Domain.
5 min	Perspectives. Ask: "How would you feel if an army landed on your beach?" The Ottoman soldiers were defending their home.

Discussion prompts, with model answers

- **Why did the ships fail first?**
  Mines in the strait, protected by guns on shore. On 18 March 1915 three battleships were sunk by mines.
- **Why didn't the soldiers get further inland?**
  They landed in the wrong place below steep cliffs, units were mixed up, and Ottoman soldiers defended strongly and held the high ground.
- **Was it the soldiers' fault?**
  No. The plan and the landing went wrong at the top. Historians blame the planning, the terrain and the strength of the defence.

Sheet answers

- Plan: get ships through the Dardanelles, capture Constantinople, knock the Ottoman Empire out, reach Russia.
- Reasons it failed: mines stopped the ships; landed about 2 km off target; steep cliffs; strong Ottoman defence; ended in stalemate.
- Scale: Old Anzac was about 2 km by under 1 km, about 200 hectares or less. Hagley Park is 165 ha, so about the same size. Auckland Domain is 75 ha, so about 2 to 3 Domains.

Misconceptions to watch for

- "The Anzacs were the only ones there." British, Irish, French, Indian and Newfoundland troops fought there too.
- "The Turks were the bad guys." The Ottoman soldiers were defending their homeland. In Türkiye the campaign is remembered as the start of a national revival.
- "Anzac means New Zealand." It stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Younger or less confident readers

Skip the hectares. Walk 900 metres as a class (or as far as the school field allows) and talk about doing it uphill under fire.

Extension

Use the working on the facts page to compare the Anzac area with your own local park. Find its area on the council website.

Sources: NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief; NZHistory: Invasion; DVA Anzac Portal: Dardanelles naval operations; DVA Anzac Portal: The Anzac Walk; NZHistory: Soldiers' experience; Christchurch City Council: Hagley Park; Auckland Council: Pukekawa / Auckland Domain

Life at Gallipoli and who served

Summary

Big question: What was it like at Anzac, and who was there?

Key events:

- 24 May 1915: truce to bury the dead
- 3 July 1915: the Native Contingent lands at Anzac Cove
- 8 August 1915: the Wellington Battalion takes Chunuk Bair
- 23 October 1915: the Marquette sinks with ten NZ nurses on board

What happened and why: Thousands of men were crowded into a tiny area with no water source, hard food and swarms of flies, so disease spread fast and put huge numbers of men out of action. As losses grew, Britain accepted the Māori volunteers it had first turned down, and the Native Contingent landed in July. Nurses cared for the sick and wounded off the peninsula, in hospital ships and in Egypt.

Students will be able to:

- Describe three hardships of daily life at Anzac and explain why disease spread.
- Name three groups who served: Pākehā soldiers, the Native Contingent and nurses; and say how Pacific men served later.
- Use one primary source (a soldier's words) to say what life was like.

Time: 25 to 30 min. **Materials:** Presentation PDF, slide 6; Student sheet 3; Optional: a hard ship's biscuit or a cracker to hold (not eat) and a 1.9 litre jug of water.

Student sheet: Lesson 3 sheet (print or save as PDF) · PDF

Steps

3 min	Hold up 1.9 litres of water. "This is all one soldier often got for a day, for drinking, washing and cooking."
8 min	Pairs read the four short "voices" on sheet 3 (food, flies, water, cold) and tick what each tells us.
10 min	Who served? Introduce the Native Contingent, nurses, Cyril Bassett and the Pacific soldiers. Students complete the "who" boxes.
4 min	Why did so many get sick? Students finish the cause and effect sentence.

Discussion prompts, with model answers

- **Why did disease spread so fast?**
  Too many men in a small space, not enough water to wash, flies on food and waste, poor food, and exhaustion.
- **Why was the Native Contingent sent to Malta first?**
  British leaders did not at first want "native" troops fighting in a war between Europeans. Māori leaders argued hard, and as losses grew the policy changed.
- **Why does Cyril Bassett's joke matter?**
  He was modest. He also said: "All my mates ever got were wooden crosses." It shows how he felt about the friends who died.

Sheet answers

- Hardships: flies, little water, bully beef and hard biscuits, heat, then snow and cold, lice, disease.
- Disease: crowded + no clean water + flies + poor food = dysentery and typhoid.
- Who: Pākehā soldiers; the Native Contingent (landed 3 July 1915); nurses (550 served in the war, ten died on the Marquette); Niuean and Cook Island men joined in 1915 and served in Egypt, France, and Sinai and Palestine.

Misconceptions to watch for

- "The only danger was bullets and shells." Disease, such as dysentery and typhoid, put huge numbers of men out of action.
- "Māori fought in their own war later only." Māori served at Gallipoli, both in the Native Contingent and in other units from the start.
- "Pacific soldiers fought at Gallipoli." The Niuean and Cook Island contingents arrived in Egypt in 1916, after Gallipoli.

Younger or less confident readers

Focus on food, water and flies only. Leave out Chunuk Bair.

Extension

Read Ormond Burton's description of a "bivvy" on NZHistory's Soldiers' experience page. Compare it with one other first-hand account. What does each leave out?

Sources: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience; Massey University research: Bully beef, biscuits and scurvy; NZHistory: Māori Contingent at Gallipoli; NZHistory: Niueans and Cook Islanders; NZHistory: NZ nurses lost in the Marquette sinking; Te Ara: Cyril Bassett, Dictionary of NZ Biography; NZHistory: Gallipoli armistice

LESSON 4 · 30 MIN · HEAVIER: SEE AGE GUIDE

Coming home, what it changed, and finding your soldier

Summary

Big question: How did Gallipoli end, what did it cost, and what did it change for New Zealand?

Key events:

- 15 to 20 December 1915: Anzac evacuated
- 1916 to 1918: New Zealanders fight on the Western Front
- 11 November 1918: armistice
- 19 to 21 July 1919: peace celebrations around New Zealand

What happened and why: After the August attacks failed, Britain decided to leave. The evacuation was well planned and very few, if any, were lost. Gallipoli cost 2,779 New Zealand lives, about one in six who served there. The war went on, and about 18,000 New Zealanders died in all. Almost every family and town was touched. Many people felt the war helped New Zealand see itself as a nation of its own.

Students will be able to:

- Explain why the evacuation succeeded when the landing had not.
- Explain one way the war changed New Zealand.
- Use theanzacs.co.nz to find a family or local soldier and record his unit, ship, fate and medals.

Time: 30 min. **Materials:** Presentation PDF, slides 2 and 4; Student sheet 4; The class roll of honour (built in the class list builder); Devices for pairs.

Student sheet: Lesson 4 sheet (print or save as PDF) · PDF · Cemetery field-trip sheet

Steps

4 min	Tell the evacuation story and the drip rifle. Ask: why did leaving work when landing failed? (Careful planning, secrecy, night.)
5 min	The cost and the change. Use the numbers on sheet 4. Gently: most of these men had families like ours.
18 min	Find your soldier. Each student (or pair) searches for the man from the class roll, or any local man, and fills in his record card.
3 min	Share one surprising thing they found.

Discussion prompts, with model answers

- **Why did the evacuation work?**
  It was planned carefully and kept secret. Men left at night in stages. Drip rifles kept firing so the trenches looked

occupied.

- **What did the war change?**
  Grief in almost every town and the building of war memorials; Anzac Day; a stronger sense of being New Zealanders, not just British; for Māori, a hope that service would be recognised.
- **His record says nothing in the fate column. Did he come home?**
  Probably, but a blank only means no death in service was recorded. Check his full record.

Sheet answers

- Evacuation: careful planning, secrecy, night, drip rifles.
- Cost: 2,779 NZ dead at Gallipoli; about 18,000 in the whole war.
- Medals: most men who sailed before the end of 1915 and reached a theatre of war in 1915 earned the 1914-15 Star. Almost everyone who served overseas earned the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The family of a man who died got a Memorial Plaque.

Misconceptions to watch for

- "Gallipoli was where most New Zealanders died." More than 12,000 died on the Western Front.
- "Everyone came home a hero and was fine." Many came home wounded, sick or troubled, and some struggled for the rest of their lives.
- "The medals on the sheet are definitely his." They are what he was likely entitled to by his dates. His service record is the proof.

Younger or less confident readers

Do the search as a whole class on the projector with one soldier from the class roll.

Extension

Open his full service file at Archives New Zealand (linked from the Online Cenotaph) and find one detail the site does not show, for example his height or his next of kin.

Sources: NZHistory: Evacuation; NZHistory: Evacuation of Gallipoli begins; NZHistory: Drip rifle at Gallipoli; NZHistory: The Gallipoli campaign; NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War; NZHistory: First World War by the numbers; NZHistory: A sacred holiday

LESSON 5 · 25 MIN · LIGHT

Anzac Day, the poppy and the Dawn Service

Summary

Big question: Why do we still remember, and how?

Key events:

- 25 April 1916: first Anzac Day, a half-day holiday
- 1921: first full Anzac Day public holiday
- 24 April 1922: first Poppy Day
- 1939: Dawn Services widely held in New Zealand

What happened and why: People wanted a day to grieve, because the dead were buried far away and no bodies came home. Returned soldiers shaped the day. The poppy came from the battlefields of France and a French woman's idea to raise money for veterans and children. Today Anzac Day remembers everyone who has served New Zealand in war and peace.

Students will be able to:

- Explain why Anzac Day began and why it is on 25 April.
- Explain what the poppy stands for and where the idea came from.
- Create a respectful remembrance card for a soldier from the class roll.

Time: 25 min. **Materials:** Presentation PDF, slide 8; Student sheet 5; Red, black and green paper or card, scissors, glue; The printed class roll of honour.

Student sheet: Lesson 5 sheet (print or save as PDF) · PDF

Steps

5 min	Why 25 April? Why a dawn service? Read the Ode of Remembrance together (the four lines).
5 min	The poppy story: France, Madame Guérin, the first Poppy Day in 1922.
13 min	Make a poppy and a remembrance card for one soldier from the class roll: his name, number, unit, and one thing we learned about him.
2 min	Talk about Anzac Day 2027: it falls in the school holidays, so who might go to a local service with their family?

Discussion prompts, with model answers

- **Why a dawn service?**
  The landing began before dawn, and dawn "stand-to" was a daily routine in the trenches.

- **Is Anzac Day a celebration?**
  No. It is a day to remember and reflect. It honours people who served without glorifying war.
- **What does "Lest we forget" mean?**
  It means "so that we do not forget". We say it to promise we will keep remembering.

Sheet answers

- 25 April is the date of the 1915 landing. The first Anzac Day was 1916. It became a full public holiday in 1921.
- The poppy grew on the battlefields of France and Belgium. The first NZ Poppy Day was 24 April 1922.
- Card: name, number, unit and one fact, written respectfully.

Misconceptions to watch for

- "Anzac Day is only about Gallipoli." It now remembers everyone who has served New Zealand in war and peacekeeping.
- "Anzac Day is about winning." Gallipoli was a defeat. The day is about remembrance.

Younger or less confident readers

Make the poppy and read the four lines of the Ode together.

Extension

Write a short piece to read at the school assembly about one soldier from the class roll.

Sources: NZHistory: First Anzac Day; NZHistory: A sacred holiday; NZHistory: Anzac Day; NZHistory: The red poppy; NZHistory: New Zealand's first poppy day; Ministry of Education: School terms and holidays

Using the site's records

- **The search** on the home page covers 105,872 people of the NZEF from Auckland Museum's Online Cenotaph (CC BY). Type a surname, add a first name to narrow it.
- **Each result** shows rank, number, unit, troopship and embarkation date. Pick him and the rest of his record fills in, with a link to his full Online Cenotaph record.
- **Medals** on the class roll are worked out from his dates the way the site does it: the 1914-15 Star if he sailed by the end of 1915, the British War Medal and Victory Medal, and a Memorial Plaque for his family if he died. They are his likely entitlement, not proof.
- **Where he rests** and the Cemetery Directory come from his Cenotaph record, council open data and LINZ map locations.
- **A blank fate** means no death in service is recorded. It usually means he came home, but check.

A FREE ANZAC DAY UNIT FOR NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS · YEARS 11 TO 13

Gallipoli Uncovered

What happened in 1915, and why. Told through our own families and towns.



Anzac Beach, 8 a.m., 25 April 1915. Photograph by L-Cpl Arthur Joyner. Public domain.

WHY IT MATTERS

9 in 100

About 9 in every 100 New Zealanders served overseas in the First World War. About 18,000 died. Almost every town has a memorial with their names.

NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War; First World War by the numbers.

WHAT HAPPENED, AND WHY

One thing led to another

A murder in Sarajevo → Germany invades Belgium → Britain, so NZ, at war →

Ships fail at the Dardanelles → The Gallipoli landing → Stalemate and disease →

Evacuation → Anzac Day

NZHistory: New Zealand enters the First World War; Gallipoli in brief.

HOW IT WORKS

Four steps

- **Letter home.** Families send in the names of relatives who served.
- **Class roll of honour.** The teacher matches each name to his real record.
- **Students search.** Students work from primary sources to find his ship, his fate and his medals.
- **Visit.** Find WW1 graves in a local cemetery with the Cemetery Directory.

FIVE SHORT LESSONS · 20 TO 30 MINUTES EACH

Before Anzac Day 2027

1. 1 Why New Zealand went to war
2. 2 The landing, and why it failed
3. 3 Life at Gallipoli, and who served
4. 4 Coming home, and finding your soldier
5. 5 Anzac Day, the poppy and the Dawn Service

Anzac Day 2027 is Sunday 25 April, in the school holidays. Run the unit in the last weeks of Term 1 (ends Friday 9 April).

WHO SERVED

Not just one story

- 16,000 to 18,000 New Zealanders served at Gallipoli.
- The Māori Native Contingent landed at Anzac Cove on 3 July 1915.
- 550 New Zealand nurses served overseas in the war.
- Men from Niue and the Cook Islands joined from 1915.

WW100; NZHistory: Māori Contingent at Gallipoli; New Zealand and the First World War; Niueans and Cook Islanders.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

Cause, effect, and people

- Why the war began, and why New Zealand joined.
- Why Gallipoli was tried, and why it failed.
- How to read a real service record.
- Why we remember, and how to do it with respect.

FREE FOR SCHOOLS

Lest we forget



No accounts. Students' names stay on your device. Records from Auckland Museum's Online Cenotaph.

theanzacs.co.nz/schools

GALLIPOLI UNCOVERED

39 Amazing Facts

Why New Zealand went to war

1. The war began with a murder. On 28 June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary and his wife Sophie were shot in Sarajevo. Within five weeks Europe's big powers were at war.

   Source: NZHistory: First World War timeline; NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War

2. Germany invaded Belgium, a small country Britain had promised to protect. So Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914.

   Source: NZHistory: New Zealand enters the First World War

3. New Zealand did not vote to go to war. As part of the British Empire it was at war the moment Britain was. Most New Zealanders then called Britain "home". The news reached Wellington on 5 August 1914 (NZ time).

   Source: NZHistory: New Zealand enters the First World War; NZHistory: First World War timeline

4. About 15,000 people crowded outside Parliament to hear the Governor, Lord Liverpool, read the news.

   Source: NZ Parliament: War announced on the steps of Parliament; NZHistory: First World War timeline

5. On 16 October 1914 ten troopships left Wellington with about 8,500 men and nearly 4,000 horses. It is still the biggest group ever to leave New Zealand at one time.

   Source: NZHistory: Main Body of NZEF sails to war

6. They thought they were going to Europe. After 48 days at sea, by way of Hobart, Albany and Colombo, they landed in Egypt instead, because the Ottoman Empire had joined the war on Germany's side.

   Source: NZHistory: Main Body of NZEF sails to war; NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief

Why Gallipoli, and why it failed

7. The plan: get warships through the Dardanelles strait, capture Constantinople (now Istanbul), knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war and open a sea route to Russia.

   Source: NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief

8 The ships tried first. On 18 March 1915 three Allied battleships were sunk by mines. The navy never tried again, so the army was sent instead.

Source: NZHistory: Invasion; DVA Anzac Portal: Dardanelles naval operations

9 On 25 April 1915 the Anzacs landed about 2 km north of the planned spot. Instead of flat land they faced a narrow beach under steep hills and ridges.

Source: NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief

10 The Ottoman soldiers were defending their own homeland, and they fought hard. One of their commanders, Mustafa Kemal, later became Atatürk, the founding president of the Republic of Türkiye.

Source: NZHistory: The Gallipoli campaign; NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief

11 The tiny beach the Anzacs landed on, Anzac Cove, is about 600 metres long. That is about six rugby fields end to end. Worked out

Source: Gallipoli Historic Site Directorate (Türkiye): Anzac Cove; World Rugby Laws: Law 1, The ground

12 At its deepest point the front line was only just over 900 metres from the beach. That is about an 11-minute walk on flat ground. At Anzac it was up and down cliffs. Worked out

Source: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience

13 The first area the Anzacs held ("Old Anzac") was about 2 km long and less than 1 km wide. That is roughly the size of Hagley Park in Christchurch, or about 2 to 3 Auckland Domains. Worked out Check

Sources give different sizes. NZHistory says the whole Anzac area was "less than six square kilometres". See the working.

Source: DVA Anzac Portal: The Anzac Walk; Christchurch City Council: Hagley Park; Auckland Council: Pukekawa / Auckland Domain

14 In August the New Zealanders captured the hilltop of Chunuk Bair. It was the furthest the Allies got. Two days later Ottoman troops took it back from the British soldiers who had relieved them.

Source: NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief; NZHistory: Wellington Battalion captures Chunuk Bair

Life at Gallipoli

15 Up to 25,000 men were packed into the Anzac area, with no natural water source.

Source: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience

16 A soldier's water ration was often about 2 quarts (1.9 litres) a day, for drinking, washing and cooking. That is less than a 2-litre bottle. Check

From university research on the rations; the amount varied over the campaign.

Source: Massey University research: Bully beef, biscuits and scurvy

17 Meals were mostly tinned bully beef, hard biscuits and jam. One soldier said the biscuits were "like chewing rock". Fresh fruit and vegetables were non-existent.

Source: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience

18 Flies swarmed over everything, including food, and spread disease. Many more men got sick with dysentery and typhoid.

Source: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience

19 Summer was scorching. By November there was rain, icy wind and snow, and some men got frostbite.

Source: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience; NZHistory: Evacuation

20 Each infantryman landed with a pack of over 30 kg, as heavy as three big bags of potatoes. Worked out

Source: NZHistory: Soldiers' experience

21 On 24 May 1915 both sides agreed a truce so they could bury the dead lying between the trenches.

Source: NZHistory: Gallipoli armistice

Who served

22 Between 16,000 and 18,000 New Zealanders served at Gallipoli. For almost 100 years the number was wrongly given as 8,556. Check

An estimate from 2016 research; the best guess is about 17,000.

Source: WW100: How many New Zealanders served on Gallipoli

23 The Native Contingent of Māori volunteers sailed in February 1915 and landed at Anzac Cove on 3 July 1915. Their motto was *Te Hokowhitu a Tū*.

Source: NZHistory: Māori Contingent at Gallipoli

24 About 477 men of the Native Contingent landed. By the evacuation only 134 were left on the peninsula. 50 Māori died in the campaign. Worked out

Source: NZHistory: Māori Contingent at Gallipoli

25 Niue and the Cook Islands offered men as soon as war began. In 1915 150 Niuean and 45 Cook Island men joined the NZEF. They served in Egypt and France, and Cook Islanders later in Sinai and Palestine.

Source: NZHistory: Niueans and Cook Islanders; NZHistory: Pacific Islanders in the NZEF

26 550 New Zealand nurses served overseas in the war. Ten died when the ship *Marquette* was torpedoed on 23 October 1915.

Source: NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War; NZHistory: NZ nurses lost in the Marquette sinking

27 Corporal Cyril Bassett won the only Victoria Cross given to a New Zealander in a NZ unit at Gallipoli, for laying and mending telephone wire under fire on Chunuk Bair. He said: "It was just that I was so short that the bullets passed over me."

Source: Te Ara: Cyril Bassett, Dictionary of NZ Biography

Leaving, and the cost

28 The leaving went far better than the landing. Between 15 and 20 December 1915, 36,000 troops slipped away from Anzac at night. The last men left at 4.10 a.m. on 20 December.

Source: NZHistory: Evacuation; NZHistory: Evacuation of Gallipoli begins

29 Drip rifles helped fool the enemy: water dripped from one tin into another until its weight pulled the trigger, so rifles kept firing after the men had gone.

Source: NZHistory: Drip rifle at Gallipoli; Australian War Memorial: Drip rifle

30 2,779 New Zealanders died at Gallipoli, about one in six of those who served there.

Source: NZHistory: The Gallipoli campaign; NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief

31 More than 44,000 Allied soldiers and at least 87,000 Ottoman soldiers died in the campaign.

Source: NZHistory: The Gallipoli campaign

32 At Chunuk Bair, the Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial lists 849 New Zealanders who have no known grave.

Source: CWGC: Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial

33 Gallipoli was not the end. About 18,000 New Zealanders died in the whole war, more than 12,000 of them on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

Source: NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War; NZHistory: First World War by the numbers

34 New Zealand had about 1.1 million people in 1914. About 9 in every 100 served overseas.

Source: NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War; NZHistory: First World War by the numbers

How we remember

35 The first Anzac Day was on 25 April 1916, a half-day holiday. 8,000 people went to a ceremony at Petone.

Source: NZHistory: First Anzac Day; NZHistory: Anzac Day

36 The Anzac Day Act 1920 made it a public holiday. The first full holiday was in 1921.

Source: NZHistory: A sacred holiday; NZHistory: Anzac Day

37 The Dawn Service was an Australian idea. It was widely held in New Zealand from 1939, remembering both the dawn landing and the dawn "stand-to" in the trenches.

Source: NZHistory: A sacred holiday; NZHistory: Anzac Day

38 New Zealand's first Poppy Day was on 24 April 1922. Over 245,000 small poppies were sold, and some of the money helped children in war-torn France.

Source: NZHistory: New Zealand's first poppy day; NZHistory: The red poppy

39 About 500 civic war memorials around New Zealand carry the names of those who died. There is probably one near your school.

Source: NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War

Teacher notes: the working

How big was Anzac?

Figures: "Old Anzac" was "a strip … about 2 km long and less than 1 km wide" (DVA Anzac Portal: The Anzac Walk). The DVA landing page says "about 1 km deep and 2 km long" (DVA Anzac Portal: Landing at Anzac Cove). NZHistory says the whole area was "less than six square kilometres" (NZHistory: Soldiers' experience).

Working: 2 km × 1 km = 2 km² = 200 hectares (1 km² = 100 ha). This is an upper figure for Old Anzac, because it was less than 1 km wide.

- Hagley Park, Christchurch: 165 ha (Christchurch City Council: Hagley Park). 200 ÷ 165 = 1.2. **About one Hagley Park.**
- Auckland Domain: 75 ha (Auckland Council: Pukekawa / Auckland Domain). 200 ÷ 75 = 2.7. **About 2 to 3 Auckland Domains.**
- Using NZHistory's upper figure of 6 km² (600 ha): 600 ÷ 165 = 3.6 Hagley Parks, or 600 ÷ 75 = 8 Domains. Treat this as the most it could have been, including the land taken in August.

Check The sources measure different things (the first area, or the whole area later), so we say "roughly the size of Hagley Park" and show the range.

Other comparisons

- **Anzac Cove, 600 m:** a rugby field of play is no more than 100 m long between the try lines (World Rugby Laws: Law 1, The ground). 600 ÷ 100 = **about 6 fields**. Cove length: Gallipoli Historic Site Directorate (Türkiye): Anzac Cove.
- **Front line just over 900 m from the beach** (NZHistory: Soldiers' experience): at a normal walking pace of about 5 km/h, 0.9 ÷ 5 × 60 = **about 11 minutes** on flat ground.
- **Pack over 30 kg** (NZHistory: Soldiers' experience): three 10 kg bags of potatoes.
- **Native Contingent:** 16 officers + 461 other ranks = 477 arrived; 2 officers + 132 men = 134 left at the evacuation (NZHistory: Māori Contingent at Gallipoli).
- **One in six:** NZHistory gives 2,779 dead, "about a sixth" of those who served (NZHistory: The Gallipoli campaign). Check: 17,000 ÷ 2,779 = 6.1.
- **How far from home?** Wellington to Anzac Cove in a straight line over the globe is about **17,400 km**. Worked out with the great-circle formula from Wellington (41.29° S, 174.78° E) to Anzac Cove (40.25° N, 26.28° E). The ships went much further, by way of Hobart, Albany, Colombo and Egypt, taking 48 days to reach Egypt (NZHistory: Main Body of NZEF sails to war).
- **Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park:** 33,000 ha (NZHistory: Gallipoli in brief). 33,000 ÷ 165 = about **200 Hagley Parks**.

What we could not pin down

- The exact size of the Anzac area: sources differ (see above).
- The exact number of New Zealanders at Gallipoli: 16,000 to 18,000 is the 2016 estimate (WW100: How many New Zealanders served on Gallipoli).
- Pacific Islanders who served overseas: NZHistory gives "around 500" on one page and "1000 came from the Pacific Islands" on another (NZHistory: New Zealand and the First World War; NZHistory: First World War by the numbers). We leave this number out of the lessons.

- Whether anyone at all was lost in the final evacuation: NZHistory's radio documentary says it was done "without a casualty"; the AWM says "only about half a dozen casualties" across Anzac and Suvla (Australian War Memorial: Drip rifle). We say "very few, if any".

Did someone in your family serve in the First World War?

Gallipoli Uncovered · our class Anzac Day unit

Kia ora koutou,

Before Anzac Day our class is learning what happened at Gallipoli in 1915, and why. To make it real, we would love to include soldiers, nurses and others from our own families and towns.

If you know of a relative (or someone from your town) who served in 1914 to 1918, please fill in what you know below. Rough guesses are fine. We will look him or her up in the free public records at theanzacs.co.nz and the Auckland Museum Online Cenotaph, and add them to our class roll of honour.

Some of the people we find may have died in the war. We will talk about this gently. If there is anything we should know, please tell us.

Privacy: only your child's first name and the soldier's details are used, and they stay on the class computer. Nothing is sent anywhere.

NAME OF THE PERSON WHO SERVED	ROUGH BIRTH YEAR	TOWN OR AREA	UNIT, IF KNOWN	HOW THEY ARE RELATED

Student's first name: _____ Please return by: _____

Don't know of anyone? That is completely fine. Every student will choose a soldier from our class roll or our local war memorial.

Ngā mihi,

_____ (teacher)

The Quiz

1. **In 1914, why was New Zealand at war as soon as Britain was?**

   A. It had been attacked
   B. It was part of the British Empire
   C. It voted in a referendum
   D. Germany declared war on it

   Answer: B It was part of the British Empire (Lesson 1)

2. **Which small country did Germany invade, bringing Britain into the war?**

   A. Belgium
   B. Samoa
   C. Serbia
   D. Egypt

   Answer: A Belgium (Lesson 1)

3. **What was the main aim of the Gallipoli campaign?**

   A. To defend New Zealand
   B. To get ships through the Dardanelles and reach Russia
   C. To capture Egypt
   D. To free Belgium

   Answer: B To get ships through the Dardanelles and reach Russia (Lesson 2)

4. **What stopped the warships on 18 March 1915?**

   A. Fog
   B. Mines
   C. Submarines
   D. Running out of coal

   Answer: B Mines (Lesson 2)

5. **On what date did the Anzacs land at Gallipoli?**

   A. 11 November 1918
   B. 16 October 1914
   C. 25 April 1915
   D. 20 December 1915

   Answer: C 25 April 1915 (Lesson 2)

6. **Give one reason the landing did not succeed.**

   Answer: Any one: landed about 2 km off target; steep cliffs; strong Ottoman defence; stalemate. (Lesson 2)

7. **What spread disease at Anzac?**

   A. Flies, crowding and little water
   B. Cold drinks
   C. Too much fresh fruit
   D. Horses

   Answer: A Flies, crowding and little water (Lesson 3)

8. **When did the Native Contingent land at Anzac Cove?**

   A. 25 April 1915
   B. 3 July 1915
   C. 8 August 1915
   D. 1918

   Answer: B 3 July 1915 (Lesson 3)

9. **About how many New Zealanders died at Gallipoli?**

   A. 279
   B. 2,779
   C. 27,790
   D. 18,000

   Answer: B 2,779 (Lesson 4)

10. **How did drip rifles help the evacuation?**

Answer: Dripping water made them fire on their own, so the trenches seemed full after the men had gone. (Lesson 4)

11. **When was the first Anzac Day?**

A. 25 April 1915
B. 25 April 1916
C. 11 November 1918
D. 1939

Answer: B 25 April 1916 (Lesson 5)

12. **Why do we wear a red poppy?**

Answer: To remember those who died in war. Poppies grew on the battlefields of France and Belgium; the first NZ Poppy Day was in 1922. (Lesson 5)