

What are my histories?

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General

This course looks at key events in Australian history, and different interpretations of those events.

First Nations

This course contains distressing content.

Australia's First Nations people lived here for more than 65,000 years before Europeans arrived en masse in 1788. At that time, there were between 750,000 and 1.2 million people living in over 500 different nations. They spoke more than 250 languages, with 800 or so variations called dialects. About 100 more languages were spoken by older people. Life was culturally and artistically rich. First Nations people hunted, gathered, and grew food. They made shelter and clothing and lived by laws and customs that were interwoven with their spiritual connection to the land. The next video provides a brief introduction to Australian First Nations cultures:

Playing time: 4:24

[watch](#)

Recording history (5 coins)

Indigenous Australian cultures use oral history, which is the process of passing stories from one generation to the next in order to remember the past and remind people about important values and rules governing society. First Nations stories are also represented in a range of other media including song, dance, and visual art. Visual representations can be found in caves and on rocks across Australia. How do you record history? What do you do when you want to remember something? Share your thoughts on the ['Recording history forum'](#).

Aboriginal cultures

The next video was produced by Nungalinga College in Darwin, with participants coming from the Tiwi Islands, Elcho Island, the Torres Strait Islands, and an Aboriginal-owned and operated cattle station called The Bulman. Indigenous cultures differ substantially across Australia, and the way of life in the video relates particularly to people living near the sea.

Playing time: 21:21

[watch](#)

Cultural differences (5 coins)

Answer the following questions on the ['Cultural differences forum'](#):

1. The video above mentions that it's important for Aboriginal children to learn their traditional culture first, and then to learn about Western culture. Why might this be?
2. At the start of the video, a young boy catches his first sting-ray, and his community celebrate this as a milestone in growing up. How does this differ from the ways that other cultures in Australia celebrate growing up?

The Dreaming

The Dreaming is a framework for understanding the world that explains its origins and history, and structures social life. It's sometimes referred to as 'The Dreamtime', although that may cause people to think it only refers to a particular time in the past. Indigenous Australian languages have their own words for it, including 'tjurkurrpa' (Pitjantjatjara people of north-western South Australia), 'wongar' (Indigenous people of north-east Arnhem Land), and 'altjeringa' (Arrente people of Central Australia).

Social roles

Men are traditionally responsible for hunting in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. This

includes the need to make weapons, from Boomerangs to fishing spears. Some First Nations people used these weapons to successfully resist European attacks, even though the latter had guns. This video provides more information about the role of men:

Playing time: 6:46

[watch](#)

Women in Indigenous cultures are traditionally tasked with caring for and educating children and young people. They are also tasked with gathering food, including edible plants, roots, grubs, fruits, and honey. In some cultures, they also hunt.

Playing time: 5:24

[watch](#)

Gender roles (5 coins)

As you can see in the videos above, men and women have different roles in different First Nations. Think about your own community - do men and women have different roles? If so, how does the community decide which roles will be played by each gender? Why do you think so many communities across the world structure society by gender? Do you think it's useful to divide society by gender, or not? Share your thoughts on the '[Gender roles forum](#)'.

Indigenous agriculture and trade

Until recently, many Europeans thought Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities were hunter-gatherers who never developed farming. We now know that Indigenous Australians were some of the first people in the world to develop agriculture. They also had extensive trade routes, to transport valued items and produce across the country. You can learn more by watching the next video:

Playing time: 12:33

[watch](#)

Historical representations (5 coins)

Answer the following questions on the '[Agriculture and trade forum](#)', after watching the above video:

1. Many Europeans thought of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as hunter-gatherers. Was this accurate, or not?
2. Why do you think Aboriginal agricultural practices were considered less valuable than European ways of using the land?
3. Can you find an example of how Indigenous Australians traded goods?
4. Why do you think Europeans refused to think of First Nations as innovative farmers and traders?
5. What are the possible consequences of this misrepresentation of history?

Stereotypes (5 coins)

The previous video shows how historical representations can shape our understanding of the past and lead to harmful stereotypes and other misconceptions. The next video breaks down a few more misconceptions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

Playing time: 2:15

[watch](#)

Answer these questions on the '[Stereotypes forum](#)', after watching the video above:

1. What role might the media play in shaping and perpetuating stereotypes?
2. What can you do to avoid stereotyping other people?

The Stolen Generations

From 1860 to 1970, it was official policy to steal Aboriginal children from their parents and place them in religious missions, boarding schools, and adoptive European families. This was a systematic effort to eradicate Aboriginal history, culture, and identity, and to assimilate them into white Australia. It had a profound impact not just on the tens of thousands of people who were taken, but also on their families, communities, and descendants. Like other forms of genocide, it remains in the hearts and minds of the people whose lives it impacted. The next video features an interview with a survivor of the Stolen Generations:

Playing time: 3:54

[watch](#)

European motivations

Why did Europeans steal Aboriginal children and raise them in white households? Some missionaries thought they were doing good and that by teaching Aboriginal children English and raising them in white culture, they would have more opportunities to succeed. In reality, the Stolen Generations were cut off from loved-ones, culturally dislocated, and subject to physical and psychological abuse. Many white Australians found it convenient to control the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for their own material benefit. Destroying Indigenous communities gave them access to Aboriginal land and a new source of labour to exploit.

Personal experiences

The next video features another account of what it was like to be part of the Stolen Generations:

Playing time: 3:57

[watch](#)

Watch the next video to see a young woman outline her grandfather's experience:

Playing time: 3:54

[watch](#)

Raised by missionaries (5 coins)

Non-Indigenous Australians can never really understand what it is like to experience this type of violence. With that in mind, try to imagine what it might be like if you were kidnapped as an infant and kept on an island to be raised by missionaries from another religion. How would you feel? How would you feel when you were able to leave the island at 18? What might you do? Type your thoughts into a Word document and save it to the '[Raised by missionaries submission](#)'.

Lifetime influences (5 coins)

In the next video, an Aboriginal woman recalls her own experience as part of the Stolen Generations.

Playing time: 14:50

[watch](#)

Sheila's childhood experiences drove her to work in the community sector, helping other children who find themselves being mistreated by the system. She decided that she would be in a better position to change the system by becoming a part of it rather than fighting it from the outside.

1. Ask some older people in your family to tell you about their childhoods. What are the main events in their lives that have shaped who they are today?
2. With the permission of your interviewees, share one or two of their experiences on the '[Lifetime influences forum](#)'.

Lasting consequences

British people eroded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, stole Indigenous land and water, introduced unfamiliar diseases, and brought alcohol and other drugs to Australia. Aboriginal Australians suffer the consequences of racism to this day, both explicit and implicit. Many of them are still kept from participating fully in mainstream economic and social life.

Myths and stereotypes

Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people answer anonymous questions in the next video. In doing so, they debunk some of the myths and stereotypes that persist today about Indigenous Australians.

Playing time: 20:14

[watch](#)

Activities

Complete at least 20 coins' worth of activities below.

[Local history \(10 coins\)](#)

Answer the following questions on the '[Local history forum](#)':

1. Which Aboriginal Nation are the owners and custodians of the land on which you live?
2. Find a map showing the borders of their territory.
3. Investigate the traditional name of the area - how might it be translated into English?
4. Research the Indigenous history of the area. Approximately how many people lived there before the British arrived in 1788? Did the land look different then?
5. Research the traditional culture and way of life of the owners of the land. How did they obtain food, water, and shelter? What are some of their important stories, practices, and beliefs? What languages do they speak?

[Contemporary issues \(10 coins\)](#)

1. Find five statistics for the Indigenous Australian population, and compare them to the general population. ***As always when dealing with population-based statistics, remember that they***

represent an overall pattern. They say nothing about the individuals within that population.

Statistics that you might want to research include:

- health
- income
- incarceration
- employment
- education
- life expectancy
- housing
- age
- geographical remoteness

For one or two statistics, see if you can find an article or report that provides some insight into why we might see a disparity. Link the article and summarise some of its main points.

Post your work on the '[Contemporary issues forum](#)'.

[Land management \(10 coins\)](#)

During the 2019-20 bushfire crisis, many people called for governments to consult more with Aboriginal communities about how to prevent catastrophic bushfires. Some Indigenous groups use a practice called 'cultural burning' to keep their land healthy, while governments around Australia use 'controlled burning'. Take a look at the video below to learn more about these methods:

Playing time: 11:00

[watch](#)

1. Write a newspaper article or record a brief video that explains what controlled burning and cultural burning are, and the differences between them.
2. Upload your work to the '[Land management submission](#)'.

[Rabbit-Proof Fence \(15 coins\)](#)

The book *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence* by Doris Pilkington is about one family's experience as part of the Stolen Generations. It was adapted into a popular film called *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002):

Playing time: 2:50

[watch](#)

Read the book and/or watch the film, then write a short essay in response to the following question:

What can we learn from *Rabbit-Proof Fence* about Australian history, and Australia today?

When you are done, upload your essay to the '[Rabbit-Proof Fence submission](#)'.

Resources and Activities

forum: Recording history forum

How do you record history? What do you do when you want to remember something? Share your thoughts below.

Link: [Recording history forum](#)

forum: Cultural differences forum

1. The 'Sharing our Culture' video mentions that it's important for Aboriginal children to learn their traditional culture first, and then to learn about Western culture. Why might this be? 2. At the start of the video, a young boy catches his first sting-ray, and his community celebrate this as a milestone in growing up. How does this differ from the ways that other cultures in Australia celebrate growing up?

Link: [Cultural differences forum](#)

forum: Gender roles forum

Think about your own community - do men and women have different roles? If so, how does the community decide which roles will be played by each gender? Why do you think so many communities across the world structure society by gender? Do you think it's useful to divide society by gender, or not?

Link: [Gender roles forum](#)

forum: Agriculture and trade forum

Answer the five questions about historical representations below.

Link: [Agriculture and trade forum](#)

forum: Stereotypes forum

1. What role might the media play in shaping and perpetuating stereotypes? 2. What can you do to avoid stereotyping other people?

Link: [Stereotypes forum](#)

forum: Lifetime influences forum

1. Ask some older people in your family to tell you about their childhoods. What are the main events in their lives that have shaped who they are today? 2. With the permission of your interviewees, share one or two of their experiences below.

Link: [Lifetime influences forum](#)

forum: Local history forum

Answer the five 'local history' questions here.

Link: [Local history forum](#)

forum: Contemporary issues forum

Post your statistical research here.

Link: [Contemporary issues forum](#)

assign: Raised by missionaries submission

Link: [Raised by missionaries submission](#)

assign: Land management submission

Link: [Land management submission](#)

assign: Rabbit-Proof Fence submission

Link: [Rabbit-Proof Fence submission](#)

The invasion

Terra Nullius

Historical events are interpreted differently at different times, by different groups of people. That is to say, different people tell different stories about the past. The British 'First Fleet' landed in Australia in 1788. According to British authorities at the time, Australia was 'Terra Nullius', which means 'nobody's land' in Latin. This allowed the British to say they did not 'invade' Australia, but that they simply occupied empty land. This was the most popular interpretation of Australian history until just a few decades ago. Things began to change in the 90s with the Mabo Case, when the High Court of Australia ruled that Australia was not unoccupied, but rather it was inhabited by its First Nations people. This gave rise to the concept of 'Native Title', which recognises First Nations people as traditional owners of their land. Take a look at this video to learn more about Eddie Mabo and the fight for Indigenous land rights:

Playing time: 3:28

[watch](#)

1770

When learning about history, people often have to rely on incomplete or otherwise flawed sources. The ship's log for the HMS Endeavour, for example, says James Cook sighted Australia on the 19th of April, 1770 - but there are reasons to think this date may be wrong.

Playing time: 2:07

[watch](#)

Relations between Indigenous Australians and the British quickly became violent. Take a look at this article to learn more about the encounter between Captain Cook and the Gweagal clan in 1770:

[An Indigenous Australian perspective on Cook's arrival](#)

First contact

Many Indigenous Australians were not sure what to make of the British when they first arrived. In the next video, an Indigenous Australian woman explains what it was like to see a white person for the first time:

Playing time: 5:20

[watch](#)

1778 and beyond

It wasn't until 1788 that the First Fleet arrived with convicts, soldiers, and settlers at Botany Bay. They found the area unsuitable and moved to Sydney Cove on the 26th of January. The next video outlines some of the events that occurred at Wadjemup, in Western Australia. Note that this is just one example of the way Australia's First Nations people have been treated since 1788.

Playing time: 13:34

[watch](#)

Indigenous perspectives (5 coins)

In many cases, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives have been translated, re-told, or selectively edited by non-Indigenous people. Until recently, written accounts directly produced or published by Indigenous sources have been rarer. How might this shape our perspective of history, and why might it be a problem? What can we do to get a more accurate picture of Australian history? Why might some Indigenous people be reluctant to share their perspective with non-Indigenous people? Share your thoughts on the '[Indigenous perspectives forum](#)'.

Land

Indigenous Nations use features of the natural landscape to identify territory. They also have established customs for seeking to enter the land of other First Nations. The British view land as the property of an individual or the state rather than the community as a whole, giving owners exclusive rights over its use. They claim particular areas and make money by charging people to live on it and farm it. This stands in contrast to the traditional Indigenous approach to land, which is explained in the next video:

Playing time: 6:14

[watch](#)

Indigenous cultures today

Take a look at the next video to learn about the continued importance of Indigenous Australian cultures:

Playing time: 10:52

[watch](#)

Penal colonies

When the British first came to Australia, they set it up as a penal colony, which is a place to send criminals to serve out their sentences. As such, most of the first British migrants were convicts, soldiers, and jailers. Over time, more free settlers moved to Australia, and many of the convicts remained after their sentences to take opportunities that they wouldn't have had back in Britain.

Playing time: 4:25

[watch](#)

Ancestry (5 coins)

Where do your family come from? How far back can you trace your ancestry? If you are non-Indigenous, can you pinpoint the moment when your ancestors arrived in Australia? You can research your ancestry online, and by talking to relatives. Post what you find on the '[Ancestry forum](#)'.

Australian immigration policy

The 'White Australia' policies were a set of laws instituted from 1901 that made it harder for people to immigrate from China and other non-English-speaking countries. The Second World War brought about changes to migration policy, with a wider group of Europeans being encouraged to come to Australia under the slogan 'populate or perish'. Immigration law continued to change in the 1960s, allowing more people to arrive from Asia. We still have tough restrictions on immigration, however. Many people both in Australia and overseas are critical of our treatment of those seeking asylum or refuge from persecution or suffering overseas. Watch the next video for a brief history of immigration in Australia:

Playing time: 3:46

[watch](#)

Many Australians believe Australia should place further restrictions on immigration. Take a look at the next video to learn more about the issue:

Playing time: 3:38

[watch](#)

Immigration (5 coins)

Why do you think immigration is such a controversial topic in Australia? Share your thoughts on the '[Immigration forum](#)'.

Australia Day

The First Fleet arrived on the 26th of January, now referred to as 'Australia Day'. Many Australians boycott the celebration each year, arguing that we should not celebrate an event associated with so much suffering. Watch the next video to hear from some Aboriginal Australians on the issue:

Playing time: 2:55

[watch](#)

Australia Day (5 coins)

Some people argue that Australia Day should be moved to a different date, to celebrate Australia without overlooking the suffering and loss caused by the arrival of the British. What do you think about this? Share your thoughts on the '[Australia Day forum](#)'.

Activities

Complete at least 20 coins' worth of activities below.

[Convicts \(10 coins\)](#)

Some convicts shipped to Australia were very young children:

Playing time: 3:40

[watch](#)

Imagine you were a child convict being shipped to Australia from Britain. Write a poem or short story to describe the experience, and share it on the '[Convict forum](#)'.

[HMS Endeavour \(10 coins\)](#)

The boat that brought Captain James Cook to Botany Bay in 1770 was the HMS Endeavour. Draw a diagram of the boat, annotating your drawing with the following features:

- aft
- anchor
- bow
- bowsprit
- capstan
- foremast
- galley
- great cabin
- main deck
- main hatch
- main mast
- mizzenmast
- quarterdeck
- rudder
- wheel

Upload your work to the '[HMS Endeavour submission](#)'.

[Australia \(15 coins\)](#)

Australia (2008) is a film set in 1939, just before the start of World War 2. It depicts life on a remote cattle station near the border between Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Playing time: 2:06

[watch](#)

1. Some people criticise Australia (2008) for being historically inaccurate. Watch the film, and then take a look at the following opinion pieces:
 - [Strictly fanciful](#)
 - [A superficial jumble](#)
 - [Baz Luhrmann's Australia](#)
 - [Reviewing Indigenous history in Baz Luhrmann's Australia](#)
2. After reading the above articles, go ahead and write your own article about the controversy surrounding the film. In the article, you should summarise some of the main criticisms, and then explain

- whether you agree with them or not, and why.
3. Post your article on the '[Australia film forum](#)'.

[Australian history video \(20 coins\)](#)

Create a YouTube video about an aspect of Australian history that interests you. It should be at least 4 minutes long, and you must list all of your references throughout the video, at the end of the video, or in the video description. Your aim should be to inform the audience. You can read how to create, edit, and upload videos [here](#). When you are done, go ahead and share your work on the '[History video forum](#)'.

Resources and Activities

forum: Indigenous perspectives forum

Respond to the prompts about indigenous perspectives below.

Link: [Indigenous perspectives forum](#)

forum: Ancestry forum

Where do your family come from? How far back can you trace your ancestry? If you are non-Indigenous, can you pinpoint the moment when your ancestors arrived in Australia? You can research your ancestry online, and by talking to relatives. Post what you find below.

Link: [Ancestry forum](#)

forum: Immigration forum

Why do you think immigration is such a controversial topic in Australia? Share your thoughts here.

Link: [Immigration forum](#)

forum: Australia Day forum

Some people argue that Australia Day should be moved to a different date, to celebrate Australia without overlooking the suffering and loss caused by the arrival of the British. What do you think about this? Share your thoughts below.

Link: [Australia Day forum](#)

forum: Convict forum

Imagine you were a child convict being shipped to Australia from Britain. Write a poem or short story to describe the experience, and share it below.

Link: [Convict forum](#)

forum: HMS Endeavour forum

Share your annotated diagram of the HMS Endeavour here.

Link: [HMS Endeavour forum](#)

forum: Australia film forum

Post your article about the film Australia (2008) here.

Link: [Australia film forum](#)

forum: History video forum

Share your Australian history video here.

Link: [History video forum](#)

assign: HMS Endeavour submission

Link: [HMS Endeavour submission](#)

War

World War I

The Great War

The next video explains how World War I unfolded, from 1914 to 1918:

Playing time: 8:48

[watch](#)

The Western Front (5 coins)

The video refers to the terrible conditions in the trenches in France, known as the 'Western Front'.

1. Research the Western Front and put together a collage of images and words describing the experience of troops in the trenches. You can include photos, drawings and other documents. You might also want to include quotes from people who were there.
2. Add your collage to the main page of the '[Western Front Wiki](#)'. You can learn how to edit Wikis [here](#).

Gallipoli

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) was formed in Egypt in 1914 when Australian troops joined Britain in World War I. Australians from all backgrounds fought in World War I, including Aboriginal Australians and migrants from outside Britain. ANZAC forces fought all across the world during World War I, with soldiers in New Guinea, the Cocos Islands, Egypt, Palestine, Persia, Russia, and western Europe. ANZAC is probably most well-known for fighting the Ottoman Empire in Turkey, where tens of thousands of young men died on the beaches and cliffs of Gallipoli. The next video provides a short explanation of the campaign.

Playing time: 4:42

[watch](#)

Many historians argue that the Battle of Gallipoli was a senseless attack, and it would not have occurred the way it did if we had better intelligence and surveillance capabilities. Take a look at the next video to see some rare footage from the battle, in 1915:

Playing time: 3:15

[watch](#)

ANZAC Day (5 coins)

ANZACs first landed at Gallipoli on the 25th of April 1915, which we now call 'ANZAC Day'. Create an artefact to commemorate ANZAC Day. It could be a poem, a drawing, a photograph, a garden - anything that might capture some aspect of the ANZAC experience. When you are done, add your creation to the main page of the '[ANZAC Day Wiki](#)'. You can learn how to edit Wikis [here](#).

Conscription

The United Kingdom introduced conscription in 1916, which forced young men to enlist in the armed forces.

Australians voted against conscription in two referendums, choosing to rely on volunteers instead. This video is an advert that would have been screened in cinemas to attract volunteers:

Playing time: 2:26

[watch](#)

Propaganda (5 coins)

Communications designed to further a political agenda are known as 'propaganda'. Like the advertisement above, propaganda often tries to persuade people by misleading them or only showing them part of the story. The number of volunteers dropped off significantly as news of the war reached Australia, especially as word spread about the horrors of Gallipoli.

1. Find three examples of propaganda, from any place or time period.
2. Post what you find on the '[Propaganda forum](#)' and explain why you think it's propaganda.

The end of the Great War

So how and why did World War I end? The next video explains events leading to the Armistice that officially marked the end of the war in 1918:

Playing time: 2:48

[watch](#)

The role of the US (5 coins)

The US joined World War I several years into the war, in April 1917. This gave the Allied forces a huge boost of troops, military supplies and warships. Research the following questions and share your responses on the '[US in WWI forum](#)', along with a reference for each one:

1. Why did the US join World War I?
2. How might have events panned out if the US did not join the war?

World War II

The beginning of the war

The Second World War started when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, prompting Britain and France to declare war with Germany. Adolf Hitler rose to power in the 30s, fuelled by strong national resentment about the way Germany had been treated at the end of World War I. The Treaty of Versailles was especially controversial, requiring Germany and its allies to pay for the enormous loss and damage caused during the First World War. World War II is known for its use of modern weaponry, making it even more lethal than its predecessor. It is also known for the Holocaust, which was a large-scale attempt by the Nazis to eradicate Jewish people and other groups they considered inferior.

World War II research (5 coins)

World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history, leading to the loss of between 70 and 85 million lives. It is also enormously complex, involving over 100 million people from more than 30 different countries.

1. Visit the World War II [Wikipedia page](#) and choose two topics that interest you.
2. Research your chosen topics and create a page for each one on the '[World War II Wiki](#)'. You can learn how to edit Wikis [here](#).
3. Add a paragraph or two summarising each issue.
4. Add an image to each page, along with links to your sources.

Australia under attack

In the first few years of World War II, Australian ships were attacked by Japanese planes and submarines, leading Australia to fear invasion. On the 19th of February 1942, Japanese planes bombed Darwin. In May 1942, Sydney Harbour was attacked by Japanese midget submarines. Japanese forces also attacked Broome, Horn Island, Exmouth Gulf, and Townsville. Australian authorities did not always make news of these attacks available right away, to help control morale. Watch this video to learn more about the attack on Darwin:

Playing time: 4:00

[watch](#)

Darwin was already seen as a potential target, so some of the civilian population were evacuated from the city. Some historians believe the government even developed a proposal to concede everything above the 'Brisbane Line' on the map below if Japan attacked the mainland, although this is controversial:

(https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c1/Australia_1942.jpg/1280px-Australia_1942.jpg)

Annexation (5 coins)

Japan posed a real threat to Australia during World War II, with many people fearing an attack on the mainland. How might life be different if everything north of the Brisbane Line had been annexed by Japan? Write a 'drabble' to answer this question, which is a 100-word creative writing piece. You could describe how events unfolded at a large scale, or you could focus on one particular moment. When you're done, share your work on the '[Annexation forum](#)'.

Evacuation (5 coins)

Children in cities were temporarily sent to live in rural areas, where there was thought to be a lower risk of bombing. Compared to Britain and Europe, there were few evacuations in Australia.

1. Look online for a real story about evacuation during World War 2, in Australia or elsewhere.
2. Summarise the story in one paragraph, in your own words.
3. Add the story to a new page of the '[Evacuation stories Wiki](#)', along with a reference. You can learn how to edit Wikis [here](#).

Nuclear warfare

The US dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima on August the 6th, 1945. They dropped another nuclear bomb on Nagasaki three days later. Japan surrendered six days after that. Take a look at the video below to learn more about what happened in Hiroshima:

Playing time: 4:12

[watch](#)

The next video looks at how the attacks were depicted by the US as a legitimate and necessary way to end the war:

Playing time: 3:36

[watch](#)

Moral justification (5 coins)

Some historians argue that the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sped up the end of the war and in doing so, saved more lives than if the war had been allowed to drag on. Others think the bombings were entirely unjustified. What do you think? Would more lives have been lost if the US had not bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki? And if so, does that provide sufficient moral justification for the attack? Research the issue and then share your thoughts on the 'Moral justification forum'.

After World War II

The Korean War

The Korean War started in 1950, partly as a result of how power was divided up after World War II. The next video gives a brief overview of the conflict:

Playing time: 4:31

[watch](#)

The 38th parallel (5 coins)

Do you think the Korean War would have ended sooner if US and United Nations troops had stopped when they first reached the 38th parallel? Why did they push on? Do you think this was the right decision, or not? Why? Share your thoughts on the '[38th parallel forum](#)'.

The Vietnam War

Australia joined the Vietnam War in the 1960s to support the US in their attempt to stop communism from spreading from North to South Vietnam. The war became incredibly unpopular both in Australia and the US, and troops were finally withdrawn in the 1970s. Take a look at the next video for a brief outline of events:

Playing time: 4:37

[watch](#)

Homecoming (5 coins)

The Australian public were mostly against involvement in Vietnam, and so soldiers were not celebrated upon their return like the ANZACs. Read [this](#) piece by an Australian veteran, then complete the '[Homecoming template](#)' and upload it to the '[Homecoming submission](#)'.

Wars in the Middle East

Australia participated in the 'War on Terror' started by the US after the terrorist attacks on September the 11th, 2001. The US invaded Afghanistan in October of that year. Watch this video to learn more:

Playing time: 5:55

[watch](#)

The US invaded Iraq in 2003. The next video provides some information about Australia's involvement:

Playing time: 1:57

[watch](#)

Radicalisation (5 coins)

Military groups throughout history have used suicide attacks to further their aims, from the use of dynamite to assassinate Russian emperor Alexander II in 1881 to Japanese Kamikaze pilots who flew their planes into warships during World War II. More recently, terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and Islamic State have recruited people to wear and detonate incendiary devices in crowded areas. Motives for this are complex and controversial. Suicide bombers and other mass murderers typically go through a process of radicalisation, where their worldview gradually becomes more extreme. The perpetrator of the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand, for example, drew a lot of motivation from online communities with extremist political beliefs. Take a look at [this](#) page and then share what you find out about why some people are driven to violent extremism on the 'Radicalisation forum'.

Activities

Complete at least 20 coins' worth of activities below.

[ANZAC biscuits \(5 coins\)](#)

1. Research ANZAC biscuits and then go ahead and make some.
2. Take photos of your biscuits and share them on '[ANZAC biscuits forum](#)', along with a brief review, and an explanation of their history and cultural significance.

[War poetry \(10 coins\)](#)

1. Choose your favourite poem from the links below.

- [World War I](#)
- [World War II](#)
- [The Vietnam War](#)

Post your poem on the '[War poetry forum](#)', along with answers to the following questions:

1. Who wrote the poem and when? What was their experience of the war?
2. Provide a brief summary of the poem.

3. What feelings and ideas does the poem communicate, and how does it do so?

4. Why did you choose this poem?

[Atomic news \(15 coins\)](#)

Write a front-page news report about the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, from either the Japanese perspective or the US perspective. Describe events leading up to the attack, and its aftermath. Include an explanation of how atomic bombs work, using the following video to guide you:

Playing time: 5:39

[watch](#)

When you are done, share your article on the '[Atomic news forum](#)'.

[War performance \(15 coins\)](#) Write and record a two- to three-minute spoken word performance about war. You can read how to record audio [here](#). Watch some of the following videos for inspiration:

Children of war

Playing time: 1:58

[watch](#)

Guilty as trained

Playing time: 2:57

[watch](#)

War is coming

Playing time: 1:06

[watch](#)

The Somme

Playing time: 2:01

[watch](#)

Add visuals to the audio and then upload your work to YouTube. You can read how to edit videos [here](#). When you are done, share your work on the '[War performance forum](#)'.

[War films \(20 coins\)](#)

Choose one of the films below, or a different war film of your choice. Note that the following films are rated 'M' in Australia, which means they are not recommended for people under the age of 15. **They all contain**

disturbing content, and you will need to get permission from an adult to watch them.

Gallipoli (1981)

Playing time: 1:43

[watch](#)

Grave of the Fireflies (1988)

Playing time: 1:43

[watch](#)

Jojo Rabbit (2019)

Playing time: 2:17

[watch](#)

Write a literary analysis of your chosen film, in response to the following question:

What does the film say about the nature of war, and how does it do so?

In your essay, you should provide a brief summary of the film and refer to specific events as necessary, but you should not spend a lot of time recounting the whole film. Instead, you should focus on the theme of war and how the movie uses film and narrative techniques to explore that theme. You could comment on some or all of the following:

- characters
- cinematography
- colour
- dialogue
- imagery
- irony
- metaphor
- pacing
- perspective
- narrative structure
- sound and music
- tension

When you are done, share your work on the '[War film forum](#)'. [Shell shock \(20 coins\)](#)

Many of the soldiers who returned from World War I suffered from something referred to at the time as 'shell shock'. For this activity, you are asked to write a 500-word research essay in response to the following question:

What is shell shock, and how has our understanding of it evolved over time?

You can read how to write essays [here](#). When you are done, upload your work to the '[Shell shock submission](#)'.

Resources and Activities

resource: Homecoming template

Resource file: Homecoming template.docx

wiki: Western Front Wiki

1. Research the Western Front and put together a collage of images and words describing the experience of troops in the trenches. You can include photos, drawings and other documents. You might also want to include quotes from people who were there. 2. Add your collage to the main page of the Wiki below.

Link: [Western Front Wiki](#)

wiki: ANZAC Day Wiki

Create an artefact to commemorate ANZAC Day. It could be a poem, a drawing, a photograph, a garden - anything that might capture some aspect of the ANZAC experience. When you are done, add your creation to the main page of the Wiki below.

Link: [ANZAC Day Wiki](#)

wiki: World War II Wiki

1. Visit the World War II Wikipedia page and choose two topics that interest you. 2. Research your chosen topics and create a page for each one on the Wiki below. 3. Add a paragraph or two summarising each issue. 4. Add an image to each page, along with links to your sources.

Link: [World War II Wiki](#)

wiki: Evacuation stories Wiki

1. Look online for a real story about evacuation during World War 2, in Australia or elsewhere. 2. Summarise the story in one paragraph, in your own words. 3. Add the story to a new page of the Wiki below, along with a reference.

Link: [Evacuation stories Wiki](#)

forum: Propaganda forum

1. Find three examples of propaganda, from any place or time period. 2. Post what you find below and explain why you think it's propaganda.

Link: [Propaganda forum](#)

forum: US in WWI forum

Research the following questions and share your responses below, along with a reference for each one:
1. Why did the US join World War I? 2. How might have events panned out if the US did not join the war?

Link: [US in WWI forum](#)

forum: Annexation forum

Japan posed a real threat to Australia during World War II, with many people fearing an attack on the mainland. How might life be different if everything north of the Brisbane Line had been annexed by Japan? Write a 'drabble' to answer this question, and share it below.

Link: [Annexation forum](#)

forum: Moral justification forum

Would more lives have been lost if the US had not bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki? And if so, does that provide sufficient moral justification for the attack? Research the issue and then share your thoughts below.

Link: [Moral justification forum](#)

forum: 38th parallel forum

Do you think the Korean War would have ended sooner if US and United Nations troops had stopped when they first reached the 38th parallel? Why did they push on? Do you think this was the right decision, or not? Why? Share your thoughts below.

Link: [38th parallel forum](#)

forum: Radicalisation forum

Take a look at the page 'Let's Talk About It' website and share what you find out about why some people are driven to violent extremism.

Link: [Radicalisation forum](#)

forum: ANZAC biscuits forum

1. Research ANZAC biscuits and then go ahead and make some. 2. Take photos of your biscuits and share them here, along with a brief review, and an explanation of their history and cultural significance.

Link: [ANZAC biscuits forum](#)

forum: War poetry forum

1. Who wrote the poem and when? What was their experience of the war? 2. Provide a brief summary of the poem. 3. What feelings and ideas does the poem communicate, and how does it do so? 4. Why did you choose this poem?

Link: [War poetry forum](#)

forum: Atomic news forum

Share your article about the bombing of Hiroshima below.

Link: [Atomic news forum](#)

forum: War performance forum

Share your spoken word performance about war here.

Link: [War performance forum](#)

forum: War film forum

Share your war film literary analysis here.

Link: [War film forum](#)

assign: Homecoming submission

Link: [Homecoming submission](#)

assign: Shell shock submission

Link: [Shell shock submission](#)

Significant moments in history

The final section of this course covers significant moments in Australian history, many of which are of particular importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The 1967 Referendum

Over 90% of people voted 'yes' in the 1967 referendum to change the Constitution to formally recognise First Nations people. Until that time, Aboriginal Australians were not counted in the census, and the Australian government was unable to make laws for them. Before the referendum, laws made in relation to Indigenous Australian people were made by the various colonial (later state and territory) governments. The 1967 Referendum also allowed for Indigenous Australians to be counted in the national census for the first time. You can learn more about it in this video:

Playing time: 2:52

[watch](#)

The 1967 referendum was a step forward, but there are still serious issues with inequality. The next video looks at how Australia has failed to address them.

Playing time: 4:20

[watch](#)

Outcomes (5 coins)

The 1967 Referendum had both short-term and long-term outcomes. Research the outcomes of the referendum, and then answer the following questions on the '[Referendum outcomes forum](#)':

1. What is one consequence of the 1967 Referendum?
2. Did the referendum make a real difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? Why or why not?

The Mabo Case and the Native Title Act

On the 3rd of June 1992, Eddie Mabo won a High Court ruling (after more than a decade of legal battles) that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people occupied Australia before the arrival of the British, and could legally be considered owners of their land. This led to the passing of the Native Title Act in 1993, to legislate ways traditional owners could gain recognition and better access to and control over their lands.

Playing time: 3:28

[watch](#)

Land ownership (5 coins)

What does it mean to 'own' land? Should people be able to own land, or should they just be able to use it for a set period of time? Should people be able to earn money by renting their land to others? Should people be able to earn money through mining and other ecologically destructive processes? Should unoccupied or unused land be made use of for social causes like housing the homeless? Share your thoughts on the '[Land ownership forum](#)'.

The apology

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd issued a formal apology for the Stolen Generations on February the 13th, 2008. Watch this video for a short extract from the speech:

Playing time: 3:11

[watch](#)

This short documentary provides more information about the event:

Playing time: 5:49

[watch](#)

Progress (5 coins)

The apology was framed as the first step toward reconciliation, and it highlighted the urgent need to address Indigenous inequality. It has been more than 10 years since then. Research the extent to which inequality has been addressed in that time. Present your findings on the '[Progress forum](#)', along with a suggestion about what else could be done.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart

In May 2017, a council of First Nations leaders met at Uluru for a convention to consider the way Indigenous Australians are represented in the Constitution. They indicated that they want a stronger political voice, and a chance to take responsibility for resolving issues that affect them. Take a look at the video below to learn more about the process:

Playing time: 6:38

[watch](#)

The Uluru Statement from the Heart requested a referendum to alter the Constitution to provide for an advisory board to parliament that would represent the views of First Nations people. The Turnbull government refused this request. Take a look at the video below for a discussion about the issue:

Playing time: 4:34

[watch](#)

Indigenous representation (5 coins)

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull argued that they would not go ahead with the referendum because it would fail. They also argued that the two existing Indigenous members of Parliament provided sufficient Indigenous representation. What do you think of these arguments? Do you think the Australian Government were right to refuse the request? Why or why not? How could Australia ensure the views of First Nations people are genuinely heard and understood? Share your thoughts on the '[Indigenous representation forum](#)'.

Same-sex marriage legislation

The next video features a discussion about same-sex marriage from 2008, several years before it was made legal in Australia:

[watch](#)

Defining marriage (5 coins)

Parts of the above discussion centre around definitions of the word 'marriage'. What does it mean to you, and why? Do you think it's an important concept, or not? Do you hope to get married one day? Share your thoughts on the '[Defining marriage forum](#)'.

Legalisation

The Australian Government relented to public pressure in 2017 and agreed to hold a survey on the issue of same-sex marriage. Surveys are not binding like referendums, but they can influence the way Members of Parliament vote by providing some insight into public opinion. Take a look at the video below for a short news report about the survey:

Playing time: 3:18

[watch](#)

Marriage law survey (5 coins)

Why do you think the Government refused to pass the bill to allow same-sex marriage without a public opinion survey? Do you think the bill would have been passed if the public had voted 'no'? Share your thoughts on the '[Survey forum](#)'.

The vote

Parliament voted on the issue of same-sex marriage on the 7th of December, 2017. Watch the next video to see the moment same-sex marriage was made legal in Australia:

Playing time: 2:20

[watch](#)

LGBT+ (5 coins)

Do you think the legalisation of same-sex marriage has had a wider impact on the movement to gain equality and recognition for LGBT+ people in Australia? What progress has been made, and what challenges still need to be overcome? What cultural changes are currently occurring in this area? Share your thoughts and observations on the '[LGBT+ forum](#)'.

Activities

Complete one or both of the activities below.

[History unfolding \(15 coins\)](#)

What events that are currently unfolding do you think will be seen as historically important in the future? Choose one such event and write an article about it, including an explanation of why it is so important. Note that your chosen event doesn't have to be Australian, but it does have to be current - it could be happening anywhere in the world. Share your article on the '[History unfolding forum](#)'.

[The Redfern Speech \(15 coins\)](#)

Prime Minister Paul Keating delivered a speech about the wrong-doings of white Australia in December 1992, in the Sydney suburb of Redfern, which has a strong Aboriginal community. Watch the speech and take notes on the most important points:

[watch](#)

Keating says 'the problem starts with us - the non-Aboriginal Australians'. Create something that draws on Keating's speech to encourage non-Aboriginal people to think more deeply about Australian history, and Australia's First Nations people. This could be a poster, a blog post, or a video. When you are done, add your work to a new page of the '[Redfern Wiki](#)'. You can read about how to edit Wikis [here](#).

Resources and Activities

wiki: Redfern Wiki

Create something that draws on Keating's speech to encourage non-Aboriginal people to think more deeply about Australian history, and Australia's First Nations people. This could be a poster, a blog post, or a video. When you are done, add your work to a new page of the Wiki below.

Link: [Redfern Wiki](#)

forum: Referendum outcomes forum

1. What is one consequence of the 1967 Referendum? 2. Did the referendum make a real difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? Why or why not?

Link: [Referendum outcomes forum](#)

forum: Land ownership forum

Respond to the prompts about land ownership here.

Link: [Land ownership forum](#)

forum: Progress forum

It has been more than 10 years since the 2008 apology. Research the extent to which inequality has been addressed in that time. Present your findings here, along with a suggestion about what else could be done.

Link: [Progress forum](#)

forum: Indigenous representation forum

Respond to the prompts about Indigenous representation below.

Link: [Indigenous representation forum](#)

forum: Defining marriage forum

Parts of the above discussion centre around definitions of the word 'marriage'. What does it mean to you, and why? Do you think it's an important concept, or not? Do you hope to get married one day? Share your thoughts here.

Link: [Defining marriage forum](#)

forum: Survey forum

Why do you think the Government refused to pass the bill to allow same-sex marriage without a public opinion survey? Do you think the bill would have been passed if the public had voted 'no'? Share your thoughts here.

Link: [Survey forum](#)

forum: LGBT+ forum

Do you think the legalisation of same-sex marriage has had a wider impact on the movement to gain equality and recognition for LGBT+ people in Australia? What progress has been made, and what challenges still need to be overcome? What cultural changes are currently occurring in this area?

Link: [LGBT+ forum](#)

forum: History unfolding forum

Share your article about a current event that you think will be seen as historically important in the future here.

Link: [History unfolding forum](#)

Attachments

Homecoming_template.docx