



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans Affairs

# Working the Web

## Investigating Australia's wartime history

Curriculum  
CORPORATION



## About This Book

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is a leading producer and supplier of education resources about Australia's wartime history and commemoration. Its print publications, videos, CD-ROMs and commissioned websites make up a highly-regarded portfolio of teaching and learning assets. These resources have been distributed free to schools or can be accessed readily on the Internet. They are used regularly and appreciated in classroom practice.

This resource is another valuable part of the Australian Government's commemorations program, *Saluting Their Service*. It aims to extend education about Australia's wartime heritage by encouraging increased use of the following Veterans' Affairs portfolio websites:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs – [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)
- Australian War Memorial – [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)
- Australians at War – [www.australiansatwar.gov.au](http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au)
- Visit Gallipoli – [www.anzacsite.gov.au](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au)
- Australia's War 1939–1945 – [www.w2australia.gov.au](http://www.w2australia.gov.au)

The aim of the content and student activities on these websites is to improve teaching and learning outcomes in history education and to foster increased use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in Australian schools. The websites connect to national priorities in civics education such as *Discovering Democracy* and to recent projects in values education.

Beginning with a comprehensive Teachers' Guide, this book contains many suggestions for using the Veterans' Affairs websites in the classroom. The Teachers' Guide provides a comprehensive overview of the five websites and advice about teaching and learning through ICT. It also establishes strong links with State and Territory curriculum statements, inquiry-based learning and historical literacies.

The ten student investigations that follow examine significant themes in Australia's wartime history, peacekeeping roles, remembrance and commemoration. Designed to cover a range of primary and secondary levels, the investigations draw on the Veterans' Affairs and other Internet resources and use them in a wide variety of stimulating classroom activities. Teachers are also encouraged to apply the models provided in building new activities based on local and individual interest.

Most Australian communities have resident veterans, a war memorial, a library or historical society. They all offer possibilities for exploring Australia's war experiences in a locally meaningful context to gain a better understanding of events that have shaped our nation.

Images used throughout the book have been provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Australian War Memorial and the Office of Australian War Graves.

# Contents

About this book	ii
State and Territory Curriculum links	iv
<b>Teachers' Guide</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Investigations</b>	<b>13</b>
1 Lest We Forget	13
2 Kith and Kin: The impact of war on Australian families	21
3 Lives Shaped by War	29
4 Means to an End: Science and technology in Australia's war experiences	37
5 Women at War: The changing role of women in times of conflict	45
6 Recording Australia's War Experiences	53
7 When Cold Wars Become Hot: Australia's war experiences in Asia after 1945	61
8 Keeping the Peace: Australians' experiences of peacekeeping	69
9 Australia under Threat: The defence of Australia 1942–43	77
10 Australians' Wartime Experiences: Prisoners of war	85

# State and Territory curriculum links

*Working the Web: Investigating Australia's wartime history* addresses the Study of Society and Environment (SOSE) and Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) curriculum links set out in the table. This resource can also be used to address outcomes in English, The Arts, Media and Information and Communication Technology.

## Catering for the range of students

Levels of students' ability, their understanding of concepts such as time, evidence of the past, culture, identity, change and continuity, and the skills they can use vary considerably. Some activities may need to be adapted to cater for these variations.

<p><b>AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b></p> <p><b>Studies of society and environment Years 4–12</b></p> <p>Essential learning about Australia</p> <p>Time, continuity and change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact, control and influence among societies</li> <li>• major developments in cooperation and conflict</li> <li>• patterns of technological developments</li> <li>• artistic expression of human aspiration</li> <li>• heritage transmission</li> </ul> <p>Understanding the past</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Social systems</p> <p>Investigation, communication and participation</p> <p>Values – democratic processes</p>	<p><b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b></p> <p><b>Human Society and its Environment Stage 3</b></p> <p>Australian democracy</p> <p>Identity and values</p> <p><b>Stages 4–5</b></p> <p>1 Australian Social and Political Life to 1914</p> <p>2 Australia and World War I</p> <p>3 Australia between the Wars</p> <p>4 Australia and World War II</p> <p>5 Post-war Australia to the 1970s</p> <p>6 Social and Political Issues from the 1970s to the 1990s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History elective 2: The Modern World (Stages 4–5)</li> </ul> <p><b>Stages 5–6</b></p> <p>Option 19: Appeasement – Peace or War</p>
<p><b>NORTHERN TERRITORY</b></p> <p><b>Social Systems and Structures Bands 3–5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time, Continuity and Change</li> <li>• Civics, Governance and Social Justice</li> <li>• Values, Beliefs and Cultural Diversity</li> </ul>	<p><b>QUEENSLAND</b></p> <p><b>Studies of Society and Environment Years 1–10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time, Continuity and Change</li> <li>• Culture and Identity</li> <li>• Systems, Resource and Power</li> <li>• Place and Space</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b></p> <p><b>Studies of Society and Environment</b></p> <p><b>Middle Years and Senior Years Bands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strand: time, continuity and change</li> <li>• Strand: societies and cultures</li> <li>• Strand: social systems</li> <li>• Literacy, numeracy and information and communication technologies in society and environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>TASMANIA</b></p> <p><b>Studies of Society and Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time, Continuity and Change</li> <li>• Investigation, Communication and Participation</li> <li>• Culture, Resources and Systems</li> </ul> <p>With a particular emphasis on Essential Learning about Australia and all of the key elements of Essential Learning: Thinking, Communicating, Personal Futures, Social Responsibility and World Futures.</p>
<p><b>VICTORIA</b></p> <p><b>Studies of Society and Environment</b></p> <p><b>Years 5–11 Levels 4–6, 6.6 and 6.7 extension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• Economy and Society</li> </ul>	<p><b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b></p> <p><b>Society and Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigation, Communication and Participation</li> <li>• Time, Continuity and Change</li> <li>• Culture</li> </ul>