

## Teacher Resource

# Indigenous Veterans

## FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What was the main point of the *Indigenous Veterans* story?
2. Describe the book the school kids have written.
3. How did the students research the book?
4. Were Indigenous people recognised for their service in wars?
5. Complete the following sentence: During WWI  
\_\_\_\_\_ weren't allowed to sign up for the military.
6. About how many Indigenous people served in World War One?
7. Why was a ceremony held for Indigenous veterans recently?
8. How did the school kids help out at the ceremony?
9. What feedback did the students get about their project?
10. In your own words describe the role Indigenous Australians have played in wars.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers please note that this document contains photographs of deceased Indigenous ex-servicemen.**

## ACTIVITY

Discuss the BtN *Indigenous Veterans* story as a class. What do you THINK about what you saw in this video? What does this video make you WONDER?

- Think of three questions you would like to ask the kids in the BtN *Indigenous Veterans* story.
- How did the story make you feel? Write a personal response to the story. Leave a comment on the BtN *Indigenous Veterans* story page.

## Glossary

Create your own classroom glossary about Indigenous Australians' service in the military. Start by brainstorming words as a class using a mind map to record your responses and then find definitions for each word.

- Enlist
- ANZAC
- Gallipoli
- Veteran
- Citizen

## KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous Australians' contribution to the military.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

### History – Year 6

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation ([ACHASSK137](#))

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children ([ACHASSK135](#))

### HASS – Years 5 & 6

Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines ([ACHASSI097](#)) ([ACHASSI125](#))

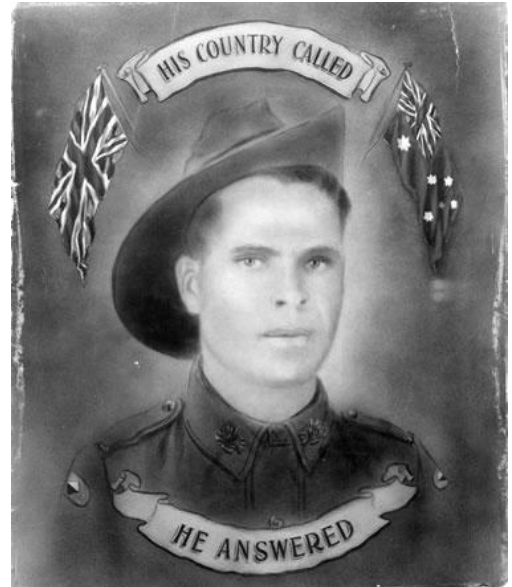
Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges ([ACHASSI094](#)) ([ACHASSI122](#))

## ACTIVITY

### Indigenous Service

Students will find out more about Indigenous Australians' service in the military. Encourage them to develop their own questions about the topic. Here are some questions to help guide their research:

- Why did Indigenous people enlist in the war?
- Which wars did they serve in?
- What rights did Indigenous people have during WWI? For example, could they vote and were they included in the census?
- What entitlements did they have when they returned from war?
- What do you think life would be like for Indigenous Australians who served in the war?
- How has the contribution made by Indigenous servicemen and servicewomen been recognised?



Discuss with students ways to display the information. These could include:

- A postcard written from the perspective of the soldier to their family explaining what life was like at war. Include photography, drawings or maps to decorate the front of the postcard.
- Create a simple website using [weebly](http://weebly.com) to present the research.
- Create a timeline showing Indigenous Australians' involvement in the military.

## ACTIVITY

### Biography Organiser

Students will explore personal stories of Indigenous soldiers who served in the war. The [Australian War Memorial website](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/special/awm/) has a number of case studies of Indigenous soldiers who served in WWI for students to choose from. Students can use the [Biography Organiser template](#) to structure their biographical information on their chosen soldier.

Some possible research questions include:

- Where was the soldier from? Locate using Google Maps
- When were they born?
- In which war did they serve?
- What was their role?
- What were their challenges?
- How were their achievements recognised?
- What was life like for Indigenous Australians during this period?

Present your findings in an interesting way.

- Give a presentation on your soldier
- Create a portrait
- Design a poster
- Make a "Did you know?" for other students
- Write a letter thanking them for their service
- Create a timeline highlighting significant events

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### BIOGRAPHY ORGANISER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Using different sources find information about the Indigenous soldier you have chosen for your biography. Use this biography organiser to keep track of what you learn.

Person's name

Personal information

Service in War

Interesting facts

## ACTIVITY

Ask students to watch the BtN [Indigenous Anzacs](#) story to gain a deeper understanding of why Indigenous people enlisted in the military.

1. What did Jake's great, great Uncle Rufus have to do to become an Australian soldier?
2. How old was Rufus when he joined the war?
3. Indigenous Australians weren't even considered citizens of their own country. Discuss as a class what this statement means.
4. Approximately how many Indigenous Australian men were enlisted in the First World War?
  - a. 80
  - b. 800
  - c. 8,000
5. How were Indigenous Australians treated by their fellow soldiers?
6. What did Donna discover when researching for her history project on Ngarrindjeri ANZACs?
7. How did Donna and Jake's cousin Victor say goodbye to Rufus in a traditional way?
8. In your own words describe the role Indigenous Australians have played in wars.



## USEFUL WEBSITES

Behind the News – Indigenous Anzacs

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3744556.htm>

Australian War Memorial – Indigenous Australian Serviceman

<https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/aborigines/indigenous/>

Australian War Memorial - Indigenous Service in Australia's armed forces in peace and war – overview

<https://www.awm.gov.au/indigenous-service/report-executive-summary/>

Australian War Memorial – Anzac Diversity

<https://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/anzac-diversity/?ancestry=All>

Australian Defence Force – ADF Indigenous

<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/campaigns/indigenous/aProudHistory.aspx>