

Darwin Bombing Anniversary

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. The bombing of Darwin happened during which war?
2. Who was Australia and its allies fighting against in that war?
3. Who did the government evacuate from Darwin before the bombing?
4. Explain what happened to Wendy.
5. Why was Darwin bombed?
6. What impact did the bombing have on Darwin?
7. How did Wendy's dad get in contact with his family?
8. The bombing of Darwin was the only attack on Australia. True or false?
9. Explain what a group of school kids are doing to remember the bombing of Darwin.
10. Do you think the bombing of Darwin was an important event in Australian history? Give reasons for your answer.

ACTIVITY

Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN *Darwin Bombing Anniversary* story as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I <u>k</u>now?</i>	<i>What do I <u>w</u>ant to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>l</u>earnt?</i>	<i><u>H</u>ow will I find out?</i>

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines).

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of why Darwin was bombed during WWII and the impact it had.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

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](#))

Locate and collect relevant information and [data](#) from [primary sources](#) and [secondary sources](#) ([ACHASSI095](#)) ([ACHASSI123](#))

History – Year 6

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

 **ACTIVITY**

Students will investigate in more depth some questions they have about the bombing of Darwin.

Define: What do I want to know?

Key questions to research

Students can choose one or more of the following questions or come up with their own:

- Why was Darwin bombed during WWII?
- What were the events leading up to the bombing?
- What impact did the bombing have on Darwin?
- Why was it an important event in Australian history?

Locate: Where do I find the information?

What resources will help answer my questions? (Internet, people, resource centre, organisations, print). Discuss with students what a reliable source is.

Select: What information is important for the investigation?

Students may need support to sort through and select relevant information.

Organise: How do I make sense of the information?

Students can organise their research by creating main headings from their questions. Write each heading on a separate piece of paper. Record the information found for each question.

Present: How do we let others know about this information?

Students decide on the best way to present the information. Possibilities could include:

- A 'Did You Know' Fact sheet
- Create an Infographic
- An oral history report
- Design a poster
- Create a photo story

Evaluate: What have we learnt?

Students reflect on what they have learnt about the bombing of Darwin during their investigation. Students will reflect on their learning and respond to the following.

- What I learned...
- What I found surprising...

There are weblinks at the end of this activity to help students with their research.

ACTIVITY

[Listen to](#) Army veteran Basil Stahl describe his experience of the Darwin bombing. Students retell his account (written or oral) then respond to the following questions:

- What was surprising about Basil's story?
- How did his story help you understand the bombing of Darwin more clearly?
- How did his story make you feel?



ACTIVITY

Images of the bombing of Darwin

Below are photographs depicting the bombing of Darwin. Ask students to look at them and respond to the following questions:

- What is happening in the image?
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image?
- How does the image make you feel?
- Create a caption for each image.



Source: Northern Territory Library



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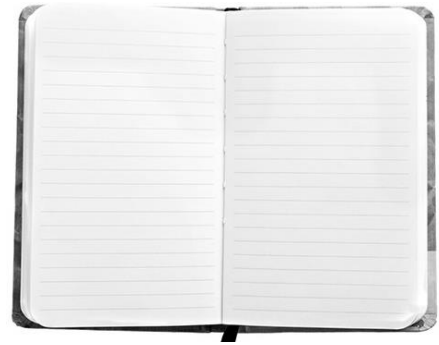


Source: Northern Territory Library

ACTIVITY

Journal writing

Students will imagine they are living in Darwin at the time of the air raids and write a journal entry about the events of the bombing and how they felt.



ACTIVITY

The Bombing of Darwin Interactive

Students use their expertise as defence experts to visit various sites around Darwin and make decisions to improve Darwin's defences. Play the [interactive here](#).



USEFUL WEBSITES

Australia.gov – The Japanese bombing of Darwin, Broome and northern Australia
<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/japanese-bombing-of-darwin>

National Archives – The bombing of Darwin fact sheet
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs195.aspx>

Australian War Memorial – Bombing of Darwin
<https://www.awm.gov.au/military-event/E59/>

Australian War Memorial – Darwin Air Raids
https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/air_raids/darwin/

ABC News – Bombing of Darwin: 70 years on
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-02-17/bombing-of-darwin-anniversary-special-coverage/3834410>

National Archives – Evacuation of women and children from Darwin, 1941–42
<http://guides.naa.gov.au/records-about-northern-territory/part1/chapter4/4.2.aspx>