



Activities prior to the virtual excursion with the Australian War Memorial

You may like to conduct pre-learning activities with your students, to prepare them for the virtual excursion and to develop their curiosity about the content. These activities are not essential, but may enhance the experience.

1. Which students have visited the Australian War Memorial before? What do they remember about their visit? If students have not been, what do they expect to see in a national place of commemoration?
2. As a class, define the term “commemoration”. Discuss who, how, and why people who have served in times of war and peacekeeping are commemorated.
3. Investigate local memorials in your area. What do they show, where are they located, and who were they made for? Your class may like to add their research to <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/>. Students might also like to design their own memorial for your town.
4. Come up with a list of questions that you have about the Australian War Memorial, or the conflicts that Australia has been involved in. If you would like assistance finding the answers, please email this list to VirtualExcursions@awm.gov.au two weeks before the connection.
5. You might like to borrow a Memorial Box. These are filled with real and replica items such as uniforms, artefacts, equipment, and more. <https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes>
6. Bring in an object from home that tells you something about the past. This might be a photograph, a piece of clothing, a souvenir, a toy, or a drawing, for example. You may like to create a classroom exhibition, displaying these objects and their stories. Discussion questions might include:
 - a. Why is this object important to you?
 - b. What story does this object tell us?
 - c. Is the object old or new? How can you tell?
 - d. How do you look after this object?
7. Discuss the differences between primary and secondary sources. Brainstorm examples of each, and discuss how they may assist you in finding out about history.
8. Create a photo wall of special places in your community.
9. Where have members of the Australian Defence force served? The following website provides a brief overview of conflicts that Australian men and women have served in: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>. Create a timeline of these conflicts.

