AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL

Activities after your virtual excursion with the Australian War Memorial

1. Exhibition design

Design your own exhibition about the area of conflict or peacekeeping that your class is studying. You might like to select a theme such as nursing, transport, animals, or people from your town, for example.

You can also borrow a Memorial Box for two weeks, which contains various real and replica items that could be used for your display. Information on how to book a Memorial Box can be found here: https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes

2. Create a postcard

During times of war, families at home anxiously await news from their loved ones. Today, methods of communication such as phone, email, and social media make contact quick and easy. In the past however, it could take weeks or months to receive news by letter or postcard, which were sent to Australia by ship. Postcards were particularly popular in the First World War, as they included images of the faraway places visited by service people, at a time when cameras were uncommon. Service people could also get photographs of themselves turned into postcards; other cards were made to encourage patriotism and loyalty to Australia and the British Empire, for example.

Design a postcard from a place where Australians have served, with either a drawing or a photograph for the front side. You could even stitch a design on the front, as silk postcards were also popular in the First World War. When you have finished the design, write a message on the back from one of the people you heard about during this virtual excursion. Who will you address the postcard to?
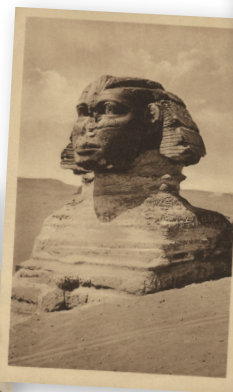
You may like to use this template:

Passed
by
Censor

POST CARD

½d Stamp
Inland

1d Stamp
Foreign

For Address

Printed in France

A large collection of postcards sent to and from service people can be viewed at www.awm.gov.au

AWMRC06473

AWM RC06559

AWM RCDIG0000147

AWM2018.19.58

AWM2018.19.24

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3. Make a mosaic

In 1937, Australian artist Napier Waller was chosen to design the interior in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial, including the stained-glass windows and mosaics. Napier served in the First World War, and had his right arm amputated after being wounded in 1917. During his convalescence, he learned to write and draw with his left hand: "an artist draws with his head, not his hands," he said. Napier began with designing the stained-glass windows, which were installed from 1947 to 1950.

He worked on the wall and ceiling mosaics from 1955 to 1958. Over six million tesserae (mosaic tiles) were attached to sheets of paper by his art students and war widows in Melbourne. Their work is one of the largest single mosaics in the world.

You can view a documentary about the Hall of Memory here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMxsogyys1c

Napier Waller, Hall of Memory mosaic pendentive: Women's services (1955–58, mosaic) AWM ART90409.003

Create a mosaic that expresses your response to one of the stories you heard in the virtual excursion. You might like to focus on an individual, an event, a commemoration, or your feelings about war and peacekeeping, for example.

Option 1: cut out paper "tiles" from magazines or recycled materials. These can be in various colours, shapes, and textures. Draw your design on to paper, and then glue the paper pieces on top.

Option 2 (gloves required): draw your design on a wooden base. Apply mosaic tile glue to the back of your tiles (which can be glass tiles, buttons, stones etc.) and press into place. Tile cutters can be used to get different shapes. Allow the glue to dry for 24 hours. You can then mix up grout, spreading it through the cracks like icing a cake. Use a damp sponge or cloth to wipe excess grout off the tiles as you go.

4. Creative response

Reflect on the stories you heard during the virtual excursion, and produce a creative response to them. You might like to write a poem, draw a picture, create an artwork, or explore music, for example.

5. Investigate further

View other classroom resources from the Australian War Memorial at https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources

Below are some links if you would like to find out more information about the people mentioned during the virtual excursion:

First World War

Robert Hartley
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C134157

Charles Bean
https://www.awm.gov.au/about/organisation/history/charles-bean
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C268241

William Bridges and Sandy
https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/dawn/plan/bridges
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2074951
https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/horses/sandy

Ernie Corey
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1359135
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C158206
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C157417

George Aitken and Dan Hampson
https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?
B=3023691https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blogs/ww1/george-robert-aitken-2367
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG1000549/

Douglas Grant
https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/anzac-diversity/douglas-grant

Grace Wilson
https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/Devotion.pdf

Frank McNamara
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10676512
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C173330

Thomas White and Vera Deakin
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C118483
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C89153
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P156

First World War

John Simpson Kirkpatrick
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C606
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1305220
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C157185

The Lahey family
https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/1/case-studies/lahey
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C186262
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1087807
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1087810

Mary Chomley
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C296730
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C983750

Napier Waller
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1224196
https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/napier-waller

Second World War

David Paul

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/3/online-resources/paul

Len Waters

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/3/online-resources/waters

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/S01652y

Peter Chitty

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/REL32808/

Dr Margaret Smallwood

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C116766

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62854955

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C116766

Ellen Savage

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/the-sinking-of-the-centaur

http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/savage-ellen-15752

Flora Hendy and Carmen Virgoe

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C30610

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/homefront/land_army

Mary Lee

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/4/object-list/evacuation-knapsack

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C344694

Ruby Wilks

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/4/armband

Oodgeroo Noonuccal (previously known as Kath Walker)

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/3/online-resources/walker

John (Jack) Edmondson

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C242648

https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/forever_yours.pdf

Damien Parer

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C166589

https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/focus/damien-parer

Clifford Gatenby

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/gatenbys-blanket-embroidered-service-history

Olga Anderson

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2587097

Florence McKenzie

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C208564

Peacekeeping

Treaty of Versailles

https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/Treaty-of-Versailles100

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C169953

Poppy Searle

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/2/case-studies/poppy-searle

Australian Naval Sea King helicopter

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1114870

https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/Control_0.pdf

Tam Tran

https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Poster2019.pdf

Vietnam

Errol Noack

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/2/case-studies/Errol-Noack

Paul Large

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C310914

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1423279

Graham Spinkston

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/graham-spinkston-and-the-book-that-stopped-a-bullet

Afghanistan

Curtis McGrath

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/curtis-mcgrath

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2627638

Sarbi

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/2/case-studies/sarbi

Shaun Gladwell

https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/gladwell

The Shackleton family

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/2/case-studies/ross-shackleton

Khadim Ali

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2133129

Peter Talbot

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1370164

Roneel Chandra

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/2/case-studies/Roneel-Chandra

Other

Tony Albert

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1370293

Kaylin Coleman

https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/memorial-boxes/2/case-studies/Kaylin-Coleman

Daniel Boyd

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2640543

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/daniel-boyd-and-for-our-country