A Collection of Activities to help students imagine life as an ANZAC soldier during World War One.

Activities include.
1. Send a Postcard home
2. Eat like an Anzac – Making Hard Tac
3. A newsworthy story – writing a newspaper article.
4. Send a Christmas Billy
5. 24 hours in a day solider comic strip
6. Writing home.
7. Dear Diary.
8. A letter to a soldier.

Some of these activities require students to view images. The following website [www.anzacofgallipoli.com](http://www.anzacofgallipoli.com) has a collection of images of Australian soldiers at Gallipoli, or alternatively for images from other arenas of war and more for Gallipoli students can do a search at [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au), the Australian War Memorial.
Send a Postcard Home

This is an image of a postcard, written by private Herbert Vincent Reynolds on November 25th 1915.
On the back it reads

“Dear Mother
This view of Anzac Cove as far as I can judge must have been taken about the end of May. The pier which was there when I left is not in view. The hospital can be seen on the right center of the view, but when I left it was shifted further along and is now in the center of the cove and would be shown exactly in the center of the view. Many were the lads who went out in the landing on this spot I first set foot, away along towards the left of the view on the first Sunday April 25th. There were about 1800 wounded on the spot shown and the scene was a terrible one. The view is not a very clear one. The hills are really more steep than they look in the view.”

Your task is to take on the role of an ANZAC soldier and to send a postcard home to your family. Choose any image in the collection. Use it as the front of your postcard and write your postcard on the back.
Think about what postcards usually entail.

• They are short letters.
• They involve a description of the image on the front. Look carefully at your image.
  Describe the scene; describe what the things are in the image. Remember you are sending this to someone who has no experience of what Gallipoli is like.
• Postcards briefly give an account of how you, the writer is going. Tell your family how you are faring.
• Use appropriate language and salutations for a Soldier of 1915.
Private Sydney Lock talks of army biscuits -
“For supper we had nothing more than those tough square biscuits given to us as rations – they were so hard a man could break his teeth on them. Someone offered me the bottom of a can of tea, which helped to wash those tough biscuits down.”
From To Hell and Back: The banned account of Gallipoli, Sydney Lock, page 89

These biscuits, known as Hardtack, were the staple food for an ANZAC Soldier in World War One. Having a very low liquid content these biscuits could last for a long time in the warm weather conditions of Gallipoli. Soldiers would eat these biscuits plain, with some jam, if lucky, or they would grind the biscuit down and mix with water to form a porridge to eat. Make yourself some hardtack and see if you could live for months on end with it being your main food.

**Hard tack recipe**

**Ingredients**

1 1/2 cups self-raising flour
3 cups whole meal self-raising flour
5 Tablespoons sugar
3 tablespoons milk powder
Pinch salt
1 cup water

**Method**

1. Place all dry ingredients in a bowl and mix together.
2. Add the water and mix until a dough is formed. Add a small amount of extra water if you are struggling to mix the ingredients.
3. Roll the dough into a ball.
4. Roll the dough into a sheet, approximately 1 cm thick.
5. Cut the dough into squares approximately 10cm squared.
6. Make holes in the top of each square (5 holes across and 5 holes down)
7. Place on a greased baking tray.
8. Bake in an oven at 180degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until golden brown.
9. Leave to cool before eating.
You are a news reporter in 1915. Your task is to write a feature article describing the life of the ANZAC soldiers in Gallipoli, to be read in the Melbourne Argus. A feature article is more than a typical newspaper article that looks at who, what, when and how. Feature articles are descriptive presentations of a particular topic. They are more detailed and longer in format.

Your feature article is to be about the experiences of the ANZACs at Gallipoli. Choose a particular time in the campaign to concentrate on. You are not, however, to write specifically on the campaign. Your story is a description of the experiences, thoughts and impressions of the ANZACs.

Your feature article must include the following:

- An attention getting headline
- A lead paragraph that draws in the reader
- Strong, descriptive language of the atmosphere of Gallipoli. Set the scene and describe the environment of where these soldiers are serving.
- Quotes (found in the personal accounts section of this application) Use quotes that will help describe your chosen topics. At least 3 quotes need to be included in your article.
- Images (to be taken from the image section of this application) At least 2 images must be chosen for in the article. Ensure a reference is given to the chosen images within the text of your article.

Your article must be at least 400 words in length.

Remember:
- Capture the reader’s attention
- Create an atmosphere
- Use anecdotes
- Use descriptive language
- Give thoughts and impressions.
- Rely on primary sources found in this application.
- Use language appropriate to 1915.
These images show Christmas Billies, sent from Australia to the soldiers at Gallipoli. They would be filled with comforts for the soldiers. The billy could then be used for cooking. Here in this picture the men are clearly enjoying the contents of their billies and are wearing the lids on their heads.

Your task is to fill a Christmas Billy for a soldier. Imagine it is Christmas 1915. What would an Australian Soldier like to receive from home?

- You are to choose 10 items to put into your billy.
- Find an image of each item on the internet.
- Write a description explaining why you would choose each item for your billy.
- Present your images and descriptions in an attractive manner.
- Remember it is 1915. That is important when deciding on the items to include.
- Also don’t forget to take into account the size of a billy. This will determine what you can fit inside.
This task requires you to make a comic strip of a typical 24 hours in the life of an ANZAC at Gallipoli. First choose your date. This is significant as it will dictate the weather conditions you are experiencing, what campaigns you have been involved in or are involved in on a set date.

Your comic strip will need to cover a full 24 hour period and what you would be doing at each part of the day.

1. Choose enough photos that cover the different aspects of your day. Alternatively draw your own images, or a combination of both.

2. Once your images are chosen write your text. Think of typical text in comic strips. Words are kept to the minimum. Their role is to support and explain the visuals, which should be telling the majority of the story. Don’t be too wordy. A good idea would be to include sections of quotes that you can find under the personal accounts section of this application.

Your comic strip will need to have at least 8 cells and cover one full 24 hour period.

Remember:
- Your 5 senses; what do you see, hear, smell, taste and feel?
- Historical accuracy.
- Punchy text.
Imagine yourself a soldier at Gallipoli in 1915. You are to write a letter home to Australia. Address an envelope to whom you are writing. In the envelope you need to include your letter and at least 4 photographs as if these are photographs you have taken to show your family.

To write your letter you need to:

- Choose a date. You may want to refer to a specific event in your letter, so ensure your date is correct.
- Decide to whom you will be writing – your parents, sibling, mate, wife or even your children. Knowing to whom you are writing will impact on your writing style and what is included in your letter.
- Remember who your audience is and that you are writing about war. You want to be able to express your feelings and explain what you are experiencing; however, you also are limited by censorship of your letters and also wanting to protect your family from learning about the horrors of war. Obviously your writing will be different to a diary entry you might write with no audience other than yourself. Your letter needs to reflect this understanding.
- Take note of your senses. Describe what you are seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and feeling. Remembering the 5 sense will make a more engaging letter.
- Describe the photographs that you include with the letter. No one back home would have ever experienced what you are going through so talk them through the photographs.
- Remember historical accuracy. Your letter needs to show knowledge of The Gallipoli campaign and an understanding of the experiences of soldiers. Although it is an exercise in creative writing, historical accuracy is a must.
- Write at least 300 words.
Dear Diary

Your task is to write two diary entries as a soldier in Gallipoli in 1915.

Your target audience is only yourself, so your writing will be quite different to what you might include in a letter home to your family. In a diary entry you are free to express your full emotions and feelings about the war.

Your two entries are to be.
1. After battle. Choose one of the campaigns Australian soldiers were involved in. Research the campaign and write a diary entry from the perspective of a soldier in the campaign. Describe what you did and your feelings about the experience.
2. An entry about the daily life of a soldier. Remember for 9 out of 10 days at Gallipoli soldiers did not see active action. Describe what you did during the day, what you ate, how the day was filled, where you slept and how you handed the physical conditions of Gallipoli.

Remember in your diary entries.
- You can be as open and honest about your feelings and thoughts.
- Use the 5 senses – describe what you see, hear, smell, taste and feel.
- You must be historically accurate, despite this being a creative writing piece.
- Each diary entry is to be at least 200 words in length.
A letter to a soldier.

We need history, not to tell us what happened or to explain the past, but to make the past alive so that it can explain us and make a future possible.  

*Alan Bloom*

You are a High school student in the 21st Century. You have been studying Gallipoli.

You are to write a letter to this individual ANZAC Soldier.

Remember you are writing from YOUR perspective, today.  
In your letter you are to include:

- The understandings you have gained from studying Australia’s involvement at Gallipoli.
- Your impressions on what it must have been like for these soldiers.
- A comparison between their lives and your life, and a reflection of what in your life you appreciate more after your study of Gallipoli.
- Some questions. Ask your soldier some questions. You may want to specifically refer to your image or quote and something raised within that. Alternately do you have any questions you have not had answered in your study of Gallipoli, especially ones that you would love to ask of a soldier if you could?
- An expression of appreciation for the sacrifices made, highlighting an understanding of those sacrifices.

Your letter must be at least 300 words in length.