

EXPLAINING ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day is an important day for Australians and New Zealanders. On this day, we think of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought and even died during past wars.

Australia and New Zealand are very near to each other, and our countries are good friends. We help each other, particularly during wars. Our soldiers have fought closely together, most importantly in World War 1 and World War 2.

There have been two big world wars. The First World War was from 1914 until 1918, and the Second World War was from 1939 until 1945.

The world wars were big fights – they are violent, using guns and bombs. A lot of people get hurt, and very many people die – not just soldiers, but people who are just living in their homes, working and going to school like we do today. A lot of these people also lose their homes, their possessions, their friends, families and even their pets. You would be very sad if you lost these things, wouldn't you?

Anzac Day is the day we remember the people from Australia and New Zealand who fought to help defend and protect the people back home. War is very scary, so these people were very brave, and many of them suffered a lot, so it is important that we remember them.

Anzac Day, which happens on April 25th every year, was chosen as the day for us to remember Australians and New Zealanders because it was the first time that we fought in a battle in a war.

To celebrate Anzac Day, we hold parades for people who served in wars – or relatives of people who served in wars. People march in these parades to show their pride in having fought for their country. You might see people walking in these parades wearing medals. These medals show that these people fought well and were very brave, or that they had a relative who was very brave.

We also lay wreaths of poppies at war memorials. These memorials are created to honour all the people who died fighting in wars. We lay poppies because poppies grew in some very famous battlefields of World War One in France, Belgium and Gallipoli, so they have become an international symbol of remembering people who died fighting in wars.

