

# Anzac Day



## What Is Anzac Day?

Anzac Day is a day of remembrance that takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> April. It is mostly celebrated in Australia and New Zealand but people from these countries who live in other parts of the world may take part in special services and activities.

## Australia and New Zealand Join the First World War

- August 1914 - Britain declared war on Germany.
- Australia still had strong ties with Great Britain so the Australian Prime Minister agreed to send troops to fight with Britain in the war.
- April 1915 - soldiers from Australia and New Zealand were sent to capture the Gallipoli peninsula.

## The Battle of Gallipoli

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) landed at Gallipoli at dawn on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. This was the first major fight of the war for these two countries. They planned to defeat Turkey as quickly as possible in a quick battle; however, the battle lasted eight months. At the end of 1915, the ANZAC forces were rescued from the beach.

Many were killed during the Battle of Gallipoli. Over 8000 Australian soldiers and more than 2500 New Zealander soldiers lost their lives. Although they did not achieve their goal, the bravery and determination of the ANZACs during this time turned a terrible event into a legend.

## The ANZAC Spirit

By the end of the war, more than 70,000 Australian and New Zealander soldiers had lost their lives. When the total population of these countries at the time is considered, this was a substantial number. The spirit of the brave ANZACs was known around the world and meant Australia and New Zealand was thought of as a reliable, strong nation.



### How Is Anzac Day Celebrated?

The first Anzac Day was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1916. A popular tradition of Anzac day is a dawn service. This is a ceremony which includes the raising of flags, the reading of relevant passages and a performance of the Last Post. This is followed by a minute's silence. Many schools will hold their own Anzac ceremony.

Parades are usually held every year in local towns and major cities. Originally, ANZAC soldiers marched in these parades. Now, it is common for the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of ANZAC soldiers to march in them. They wear the medals or carry something belonging to their ancestors. Nowadays, these parades are more celebratory events with crowds lining the streets to cheer on and applaud the members of the military. There is a sense of pride in what these brave men and women have done, and continue to do, for Australia.



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# Questions

1. On which date does Anzac Day take place? Tick **one**.

- 25<sup>th</sup> August
- 25<sup>th</sup> April
- 15<sup>th</sup> April
- 15<sup>th</sup> August

2. How long did the Battle of Gallipoli last?

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3. How many New Zealander soldiers lost their lives at Gallipoli? Tick **one**.

- 8000
- 60 000
- 2500
- 250

4. Which of these are part of the dawn service? Tick **two**.

- The Last Post is performed.
- Soldiers march in parades.
- There is a minute's silence.
- Relatives march in parades.

5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are true or false.

Sentence	True	False
Anzac Day is only celebrated by people living in Australia.		
Parades now celebrate all members of the military.		
All schools hold an Anzac ceremony.		
Britain declared war on Germany in April 1914.		

6. What turned a terrible event into a legend?

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7. Why did the ANZACs go and fight alongside Britain?

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# Answers

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6. What turned a terrible event into a legend?

**The bravery and determination the ANZACs showed at the Battle of Gallipoli turned a terrible event into a legend.**

7. Why did the ANZACs go and fight alongside Britain?

**The ANZACs went to fight alongside Britain because Britain was at war with Germany. As Australia had strong ties with Britain, they joined the war to support the British.**