



Name:

Date:/...../.....

Education Trail

Section 1: The following section needs to be conducted at the entrance of the memorial where the wall of names begins. See diagram for section 1 location.

1. Write down 10 words that come to mind when you think about Prisoners of War?
Students may need to be prompted to think of ideas so it is important that they are guided to an answer and not simply given the answer. This question is designed to create some critical thinking about the Prisoner's life and experiences.
2. What is a Prisoner of War?
The Trustees of the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial have defined a Prisoner of War to be a person who was captured by a common enemy and/or interned in a neutral or non-combatant country. To be defined an Australian Prisoner of War, the person needs to be either an Australian born person serving in a uniform of a friendly country or born elsewhere and serving in the uniform of an Australian service. A Prisoner is a person who has lost personal privileges, suffers deprivation of liberty or is unable to return home or dies in captivity.
3. In small groups discuss what you think is symbolised by the pavers along the pathway?
The journey begins on a long pathway designed to create a strong visual perspective that emphasizes the great distance Australians travelled to war. The paving stones forming a pathway are shaped like railway sleepers in recognition of the iconic place of railway journeys in the history of Australian Prisoners of War.
4. In pairs discuss and write down reasons the names may be written the way they are? What is the reason behind the angle of the wall?
A roll of names of all known Australian Prisoners of War is etched into a black granite wall lying parallel to the pathway. The roll gives no rank, number or enlistment detail. In recognition that sacrifices, suffering and desperation acknowledged no person's status. These men and women are equals.

Section 2: The following section needs to be conducted at the middle part of the memorial where you can see the large stone obelisk. See diagram for section 2 location.

5. Brainstorm what is represented by the massive stone obelisks? Why is one of them fallen over?
In a break in the wall a row of stone obelisks stands sentinel in a shallow pool of water. Each bears the names of countries where Australians were held as Prisoners of War. The obelisks are out of reach across the water, symbolizing that all the prison camps were overseas, far from home and the comfort of family and friends. The size of each obelisks and their position in the water creates









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Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial

a powerful image and offers a place for reverence and reflection. The obelisks form a silent line of guardians watching over these prisoners of war for ever. The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as prisoners of war.

6. In pairs discuss why you think the country of Vietnam is not written on the obelisks?
Vietnam isn't included on the obelisks or the wall as there were no Prisoners of War during the Vietnam War.
7. How many countries around the world were home to Australian Prisoners of War? Name them?
Germany, Siam, New Guinea, Italy, Japan, New Britain, Transvaal, Celebes, Libya, Java, Borneo, Natal, Poland, Timor, Ambor Island, Turkey, Sumatra, Singapore, Cape Colony, New Island, Czechoslovakia, Hainan Island, France, Manchuria, Palestine, Austria, Indo-China, Dutch New Guinea, Switzerland, Syria, Belgium, Papua, Formosa, Mesopotamia, Greece, Korea, Sweden, Malaya, Crete, Holland, Burma, Holland Free State. Some country names no longer exist but were the name at the time the Prisoners were captured.

Section 3: The following section needs to be conducted in the middle of the memorial where the four flag poles are. See diagram for section 3 location.

8. There are 4 flags flying in the center of the memorial, in small groups discuss what the 4 may represent? What are the 4 names of the flags?

The National Flag of Australia	The Australian white ensign	The RAAF ensign	The Australian red ensign
			
<p>The Australian flag contains three elements: The British Union Jack on a blue field - reflecting the historical origins of the Australian flag, The Southern Cross - reflecting Australia's geographic position in the Southern Hemisphere, and a seven pointed star - representing the Federation of six states, with an additional point to represent the territories collectively.</p>	<p>The national flag for use by commissioned warships and shore establishments of the Royal Australian Navy. The flag is flown by warships from the ensign staff at the stern. The blue Australian national flag is flown on the jack-staff at the bow, when vessels are in port. Prior to 1967, the RAN used the British White Ensign.</p>	<p>The official flag of the Royal Australian Air Force. The flag is flown at RAAF bases. Originally adopted in 1949, the ensign was modified in 1982 when the roundel was altered to include a red kangaroo. During World War II, the RAAF used the flag of the British Royal Air Force.</p>	<p>The national flag for use by ships registered in Australia. From 1981 yachts and small ships may use the blue Australian National Flag in place of the Australian Red Ensign. The flag is also known as the Civil Flag. From 1901 to 1954 the Red Ensign was in practice, used as Australia's Civil Flag, i.e. the flag to be flown by private citizens on land. The Blue Ensign was for Government use only, reflecting British practice with its ensigns.</p>





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Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial

9. Find and explain the memorial within this memorial? What happened and how many tragic deaths were there?

The memorial within this memorial is the one at the center for the Montevideo Maru a Japanese Merchant ship. In 1942 it was sunk by an US Submarine carrying 1,053 Prisoners of War and 208 civilians with 17 Japanese crewman and 3 guards being the only survivors. This remains the largest maritime disaster in Australian history.

10. What conflict did Sir Albert Coates serve in?

Sir Albert Coates was born in Ballarat in 1895 and enlisted into the Australian Army Medical Corps at the age of 19. He served Australia during WWI and WWII and was captured by the Japanese in 1942 at the fall of Singapore and sent to Burma.

Section 4: The following section needs to be conducted towards the end of the wall, it may also require the students to walk back along the wall to count names and panels. See diagram for section 4 location.

11. With an average of 450 names on each panel how many panels signify each conflict and approximately how many Prisoners of War were there in each conflict?

The number of panels for each conflict are;

- Boer – Panels 0.5 Approximately 225 Prisoners.**
- WWI – Panels 9.5 Approximately 4,050 Prisoners.**
- WWII – Panels 68.5 Approximately 30,825 Prisoners.**
- Korean – Panels 0.10 Approximately 45 Prisoners.**

12. Which conflict saw the most number of Australians imprisoned?

The conflict that saw the largest number of Australian Prisoners was during WWII with 31,404 Prisoners. Following that was WWI with 4,149 Prisoners, Boer War with 200 Prisoners, and Korean War with 31 Prisoners.

13. Why is there blank panels at the end of the memorial?

The reason there are blank panels at the end of the wall is because the research for more names is ongoing. From the opening of the memorial in 2004 with approximately 35,000 names on the wall until now there has been 974 names added to the wall.

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