

# Reading Comprehension — The Story of ANZAC Day

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## The Story of ANZAC Day

Every year on the twenty-fifth of April, people across Australia and New Zealand wake before dawn. In the cold, dark morning, they gather in silence at war memorials to remember. This is ANZAC Day, one of the most important days in both countries.

ANZAC stands for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. In 1915, during the First World War, thousands of young ANZAC soldiers were sent to fight at a place called Gallipoli, in what is now Turkey. They landed on a narrow beach beneath steep cliffs, where enemy soldiers were waiting above them. The fighting was terrible, and it dragged on for eight long months. Many thousands of soldiers, on all sides, lost their lives.

The campaign did not succeed, and the surviving soldiers were eventually taken away. Yet something powerful was remembered. People spoke of the courage of the ANZACs, and of their "mateship" — the way they looked after one another in the most frightening of conditions.

Today, ANZAC Day is not a celebration of war. It is a solemn day of remembrance. At dawn services, a bugle plays the Last Post, and there is a minute of silence. People wear sprigs of rosemary or red poppies, and old soldiers march while crowds clap quietly. The day now honours everyone who has served and suffered in war, not only those at Gallipoli.

By remembering, people hope to understand the true cost of war — and to value the peace that so many gave their lives to protect.

## Questions

1. On what date is ANZAC Day held? (1 mark)
2. What does ANZAC stand for? (1 mark)
3. Where did the ANZAC soldiers land in 1915? (1 mark)
4. Find and copy a word meaning "serious and respectful, not joyful." (1 mark)
5. Why was the landing at Gallipoli so dangerous? Use the text. (2 marks)
6. What does the text say "mateship" means? (2 marks)
7. The writer says ANZAC Day is "not a celebration of war." Why do you think the writer makes this clear? (2 marks)
8. Why do people remember ANZAC Day, according to the final paragraph? (2 marks)
9. Summarise the story in order: what happened in 1915, and how the day is marked now. (3 marks)

## Answer Key / Mark Scheme

1. The twenty-fifth of April (25 April).

- 2.** The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.
- 3.** On a beach at Gallipoli (in present-day Turkey).
- 4.** "solemn."
- 5.** They landed on a narrow beach beneath steep cliffs with enemy soldiers waiting above them.
- 6.** The way the soldiers looked after one another in frightening conditions.
- 7.** To show respect — it is about remembering loss and courage, not enjoying or glorifying war.
- 8.** To understand the true cost of war and to value the peace others died to protect.
- 9.** 1915: ANZACs landed at Gallipoli, fought for eight months, many died, the campaign failed.  
Now: dawn services, the Last Post, a minute's silence, poppies and rosemary, marches, honouring all who served.