

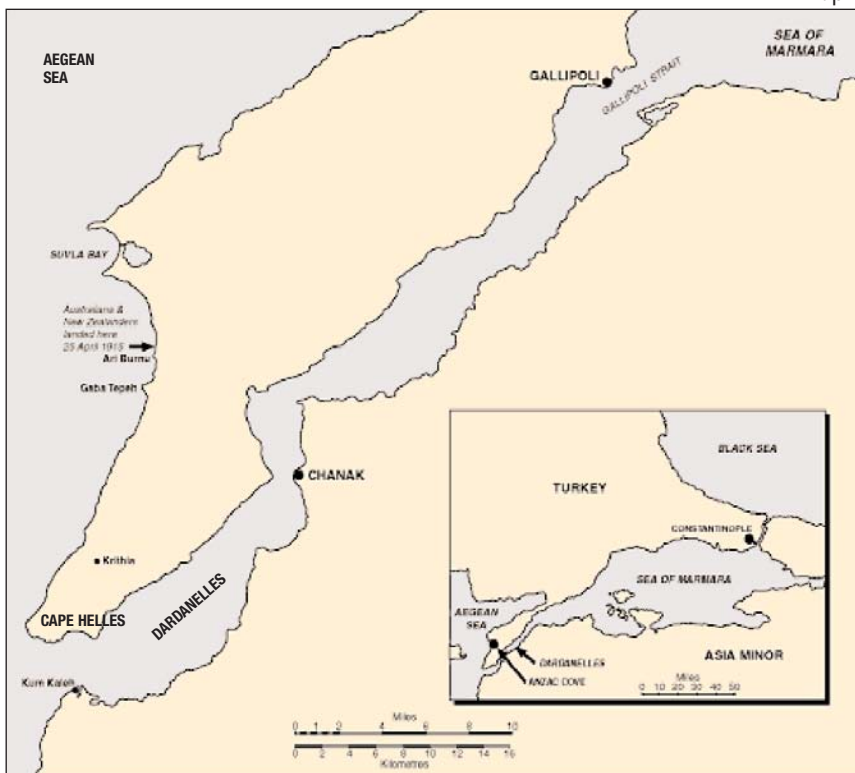
Topic 1: Into battle

Work Sheet 1A: World War I and the Gallipoli Campaign



Map 1

Map 2



FACT FILE 1

World War I broke out on 4 August 1914. The war was fought between two opposing groups of countries who had formed alliances in the years leading up to the outbreak of war. Britain, France and Russia had formed one alliance. They were opposed by Germany and Austria-Hungary. Turkey later entered the war on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary. The war on land was fought on two major fronts: the Western Front (Northern France and Belgium) and the Eastern Front (between Russia and Germany).

FACT FILE 3

By the end of 1914, after six months of fighting, the war on the Eastern Front was going badly for the Russians and they needed help from their allies. Britain developed a plan to help Russia by attacking Turkey who controlled the Dardanelle straits, the entrance to Russia's southern Black Sea ports. If the British and their allies could defeat Turkey, they could not only help the Russians by bringing in supplies through the Dardanelles, but they might also weaken Germany by knocking her ally, Turkey, out of the war.

FACT FILE 5

It was then decided that the only way to seize Constantinople (Istanbul) was to bring in the army who would capture the Gallipoli peninsula and make their way overland to destroy the Turkish guns that controlled the Dardanelle straits. This plan involved landing allied soldiers at different locations on the Gallipoli peninsula. The combined Australian and New Zealand force was to land at a place called Gaba Tepe on the west coast and British soldiers were to land further south at the tip of the peninsula at Cape Helles. The date for the landing was to be 25 April 1915.

FACT FILE 2

Australia was a member of the British Empire and had close ties with Britain, the 'mother country'. The great majority of Australians enthusiastically supported the war. Andrew Fisher, the Australian Prime Minister in 1914 made the now famous declaration that: 'Australians will stand beside our own to help and defend Britain to our last man and our last shilling'. Within three months of the outbreak of war 20,000 Australian men had volunteered to join the army and were being trained for overseas service.

FACT FILE 4

The Minister in charge of the British Navy was Winston Churchill. He was convinced that the British navy, the Royal Navy, could be used to force a way through the narrow passage of the Straits of the Dardanelles. On 18 March 1915, a British and French fleet of 18 battleships, and other warships, attempted to force its way through to Constantinople (Istanbul). But the Turkish commanders had prepared their defences to include carefully laid minefields, well-sited guns and searchlights that swept the narrows at night. The naval attack on the Dardanelles was defeated with heavy losses.

Map 1 and Fact Files 1 and 2

- 1 Use the information from *Fact File 1* identify the two opposing alliances of World War I by colour coding the countries in each alliance.
- 2 Shade the area of the two major fronts mentioned in *Fact File 1*: the Western Front and the Eastern Front.
- 3 Use the information from *Fact Files 1* and *2* to explain in your own words why Australia became involved in World War I.

Map 2 and Fact Files 3, 4 and 5

- 1 How did Britain plan to help her ally Russia?

- 2 Find the Dardanelles and Constantinople on the map and explain why they were important in the British plan.

- 3 What role did the British Navy play in the first attempt to capture the Dardanelles? Why did it fail?

- 4 What second attempt was made after the failure of the British naval attack? How did this involve Australian and New Zealand troops?

- 5 Find each of the following places and number them from 1 to 4 on *Map 2*: Dardanelles, Gaba Tepe, Cape Helles, Constantinople.
- 6 Summarise what you have learned from this activity by writing a short paragraph explaining the significance of these places in the Allied strategy to capture the Gallipoli peninsula.

- 7 What information suggests that the Allied soldiers who went into battle on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915 would meet stiff resistance from the Turks?
