

## The conscription debate

### **Australian Curriculum: Stage 5 – The Making of the Modern World – Depth Study 3 (World War I)**

#### **Australian Curriculum - Content**

ACDSEH096: The impact of World War I, with a particular emphasis on Australia (such as the use of propaganda to influence civilian population, the changing role of women, the conscription debate)

#### **Australian Curriculum – Historical Skills**

ACHHS165: Use historical terms and concepts

ACHHS170: Process and synthesise information from a range of sources for use as evidence in an historical argument

ACHHS172: Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past

### **NSW Syllabus: Stage 5 – The Making of the Modern World – Core Study – Depth Study 3: Australians at War: World Wars I and II (1914-1918, 1939 – 1945)**

#### **NSW Syllabus – Outcomes**

HT5-1: Explains and assesses the historical forces and factors that shaped the modern world and Australia

HT5-9: Applies a range of relevant historical terms and concepts when communicating an understanding of the past

HT5-10: Selects and uses appropriate oral, written, visual and digital forms to communicate effectively about the past for different audiences

### **Assumed knowledge**

ACDSEH021: An overview of the causes of WWI and the reasons why men enlisted to fight in the war.

### **Key Inquiry Questions**

What were the main arguments for and against conscription during World War I?

Time:	Activity overview:	Resources:
<p>Approx. 80 mins + homework time (40 mins + homework time for preparation, 40m for presentations) – Not including additional exercise</p>	<p>Students read the 'Conscription referendums, 1916-1917 – Fact sheet 161', 'Arguments over conscription' resource, and 'Conscription, World War I, 1914-1918' page and watch the 'Conscription Referendum Campaign'.</p> <p>A brief table of arguments for and against conscription is drawn up on the board, and filled out during a class discussion facilitated by the teacher.</p> <p>Students are then placed in groups, and allocated the role of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Members of the Peace Society</li> <li>• People opposed to World War I on religious grounds</li> <li>• People opposed to conscription/WWI on socialist grounds</li> </ul> <p>Within each group, students divide into pairs. Through a group-based decision making process each pair of students take on a 'character' based on the information provided in the relevant Dictionary of Sydney articles (on right). Students use the resources provided (articles, stubs, images, and other resources) to prepare an oral</p>	<p><b>Dictionary of Sydney articles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruiting for World War I - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/recruiting_for_world_war_i">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/recruiting_for_world_war_i</a></li> <li>• Ultimo Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/ultimo_presbyterian_church_roll_of_honour">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/ultimo_presbyterian_church_roll_of_honour</a></li> <li>• Women and World War I - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/women_and_world_war_i">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/women_and_world_war_i</a></li> <li>• World War I and the Peace Society in Sydney - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/world_war_i_and_the_peace_society_in_sydney">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/world_war_i_and_the_peace_society_in_sydney</a></li> <li>• Religious Opposition to World War I - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/religious_opposition_to_world_war_i">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/religious_opposition_to_world_war_i</a></li> <li>• Socialist Opposition to World War I - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/socialist_opposition_to_world_war_i">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/socialist_opposition_to_world_war_i</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Dictionary of Sydney stubs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti Conscription League of New South Wales - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/anti_conscription_league_of_new_south_wales">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/anti_conscription_league_of_new_south_wales</a></li> <li>• Peace Society, New South Wales Branch - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/peace_society_new_south_wales_branch">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/peace_society_new_south_wales_branch</a></li> <li>• Hughes, William Morris - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/person/hughes_william_morris_billy">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/person/hughes_william_morris_billy</a></li> </ul>

	<p>or written submission by their character to the Federal Parliament and Billy Hughes. Students then present their submission to the class.</p> <p>Students should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did your character hold their view?</li> <li>• What events impacted on this opinion?</li> <li>• What conscription required young men to do?</li> <li>• What do you know of Billy Hughes' opinion on the matter? How would you appeal to him in your argument?</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional exercise:</b> the class is divided into two, with one half compiling arguments for conscription, and the other half compiling arguments against conscription. The teacher then allocates roles for a debate, and sets the rules.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conscription referendum 1916 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/event/conscription_referendum_1916">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/event/conscription_referendum_1916</a></li> <li>• Conscription referendum 1917 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/event/conscription_referendum_1917">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/event/conscription_referendum_1917</a></li> <li>• Industrial Workers of the World - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/industrial_workers_of_the_world">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/industrial_workers_of_the_world</a></li> <li>• Australian Freedom League - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/australian_freedom_league">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/australian_freedom_league</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Dictionary of Sydney images:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Vote No Mum, they'll take Dad next' 1916 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113468">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113468</a></li> <li>• Mr Hughes great conscription meeting at Sydney Town Hall 14 November 1917 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113145">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113145</a></li> <li>• The Blood Vote 1916 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/112879">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/112879</a></li> <li>• Vote No: Conscription takes the Bread-earner of the poor mother and sister, but never the bread-earner of the rich mother and sister, etc 1915-1917 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113415">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113415</a></li> <li>• Crowds at public meeting in the Domain discussing the conscription issue October 1916 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113151">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113151</a></li> <li>• The IWW Twelve 1916 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113304">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/113304</a></li> <li>• IWW Members Charged with Treason – Sensational Revelations 1916 - <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/116898">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/image/116898</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Other resources:</b></p> <p>Australian Dictionary of Biography article: Hughes, William Morris (Billy) -</p>
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