

Teacher Resource

Conscription

Episode 32
10th November 2020

Focus Questions

1. Discuss the *BTN Conscription* story as a class. Record the main points of the discussion.
2. What is conscription?
3. Which former Prime Minister tried to introduce conscription in World War One?
 - a. Billy Hughes
 - b. Gough Whitlam
 - c. Alfred Deakin
4. Why did he try to introduce it?
5. What were the arguments for and against conscription?
6. What was held to decide whether conscription should be introduced and what was the result?
7. In 1964 conscription was introduced for the...
 - a. Vietnam War
 - b. Korean War
 - c. War in Afghanistan
8. How were men chosen to go to the Vietnam War?
9. What year did Australia end conscription?
10. What did you learn watching this story?

Activity

Personal response

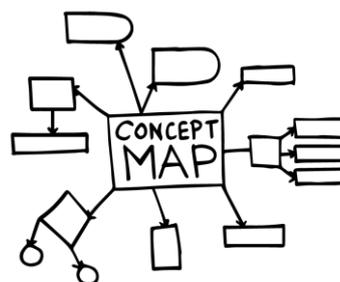
After watching the *BTN Conscription* story, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- This story made me wonder why...
- It was interesting to learn that...
- This story made me feel...
- *BTN* covered this story because...

Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the *BTN Conscription* story. Ask students to record what they know about conscription on a mind map. What questions do students have? Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is conscription? Come up with a class definition.
- Which Prime Minister tried to introduce conscription?
- Why was it considered necessary?
- Why would people support conscription?
- Why would people be against it?



Key Learning

Students will explore the history of conscription in Australia.

Curriculum

HASS – Year 3

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems.

HASS – Year 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines.

HASS – Years 6 & 7

Examine primary and secondary sources to determine their origin and purpose.

HASS – Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Activity

Key Words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *Conscription* story. Here are some words to get you started.

Conscription	Enlist	Controversial
Volunteer	Referendum	Propaganda

Activity

Australia's involvement in war



Ask students to create a timeline that highlights Australia's involvement in war over the last 100 years. Students will work in small groups to work through the following questions, gathering basic information and understanding. Students will find and collect images, photographs, illustrations and video that represents Australia's involvement in war.

- Why did Australia become involved in this war?
- What was Australia's involvement?
- Were Australian citizens conscripted to serve in the war?

Activity

Research

Students will be investigating conscription in more detail. They can develop their own key questions to investigate or respond to one or more of the questions below.

- What reasons might soldiers have for voting for or against conscription?
- Many countries introduced conscription with some restrictions. Do you think the outcome of the referendum would have been different if Prime Minister Billy Hughes had been more specific about who could be conscripted? Give reasons for your answer.
- How did views about Australia's involvement in the war change over time?
- How did people try to convince others of their point of view about conscription?

Students can present their research in a number of ways. These include:

- Podcast - [Audacity](#) or [GarageBand](#) are both well suited to making podcasts. To publish they will need to use a free service like [PodOmatic](#), [Buzzsprout](#)
- News article
- [Prezi](#) presentation

Activity

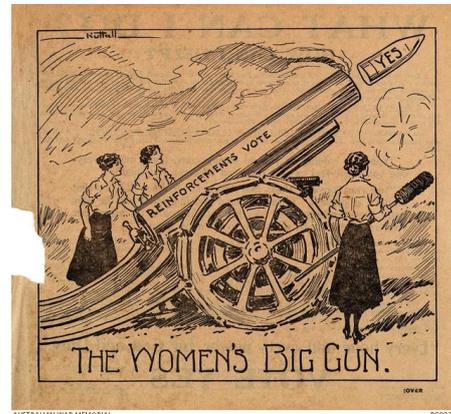
Conscription posters

Working in pairs, students will choose one or more of the following conscription posters or leaflets to analyse. Students can choose one or more of the examples below or find another conscription poster on the [Australian War memorial](#) website. Below are some questions students can respond to when analysing the texts.

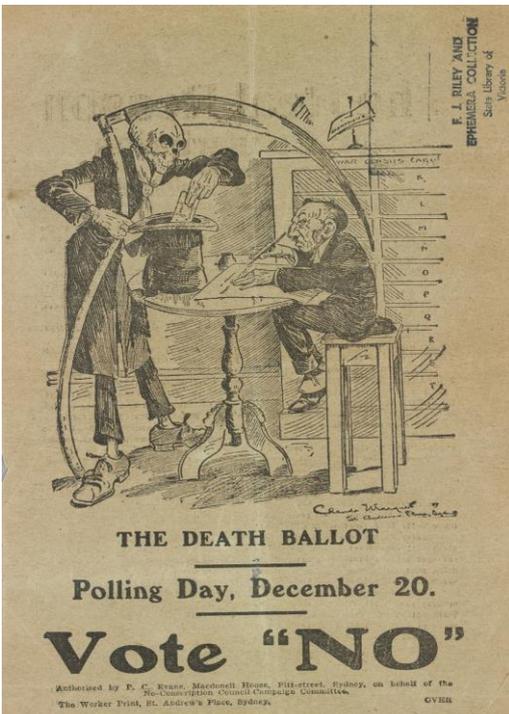
- Describe the poster. What do you see?
- What is the key message of the poster?
- Why do you think the poster was created?
- Who was the intended audience?
- What persuasive techniques were used to promote the message?
- What question/s do you have about the poster?
- Are conscription posters a primary or secondary source of information?
- Further investigation: Why do you think women featured prominently in conscription posters?



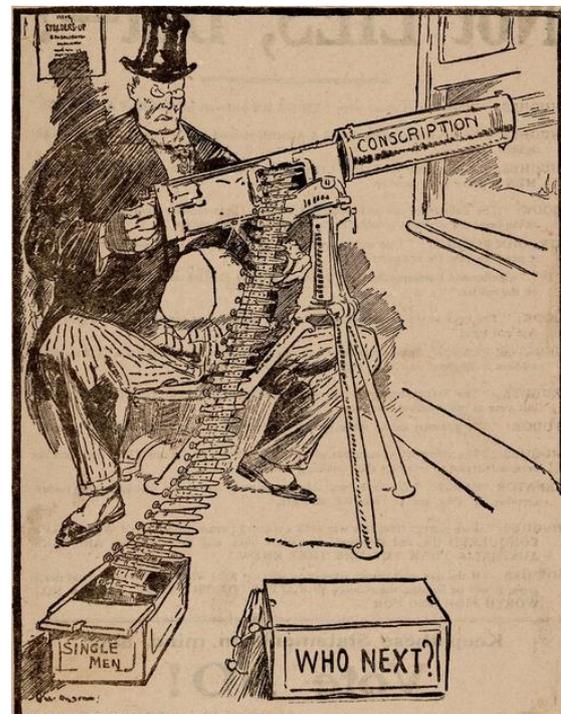
Source: [State Library NSW](#)



Source: [Australian War Memorial](#)



Source: [State Library Victoria](#)



Source: [Australian War Memorial](#)



Source: [Australian War Memorial](#)



Source: [Australian War Memorial](#)

Activity

Conscription and the Vietnam War

Watch the [Vietnam birthday ballot video](#) and answer the following questions about conscription:

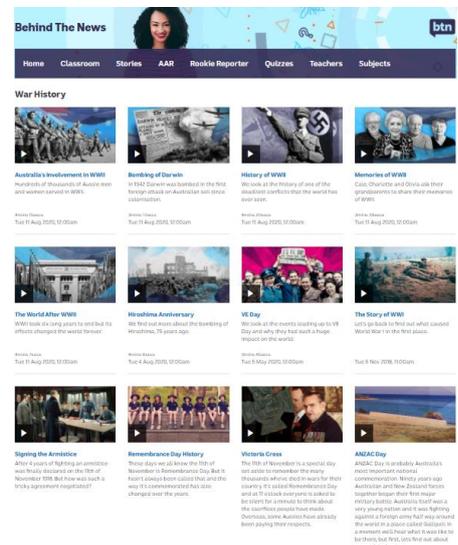
- How were men chosen to go to the Vietnam War?
- Why did Australia have to conscript men for military service?
- What reasons might people have to support or oppose the war in Vietnam?
- How do you feel about conscription? Write a personal response giving reasons for your answer.



Activity

BTN War History stories

Visit BTN's [collection of War History stories](#). After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).



Useful Websites

Conscription Digibook – ABC Education

<https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/digibook/825363/conscription-in-20th-century-australia>

Vietnam War – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/vietnam-war/10524226>

Sources: The conscription debate – Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/schools/resources/sources/conscription>