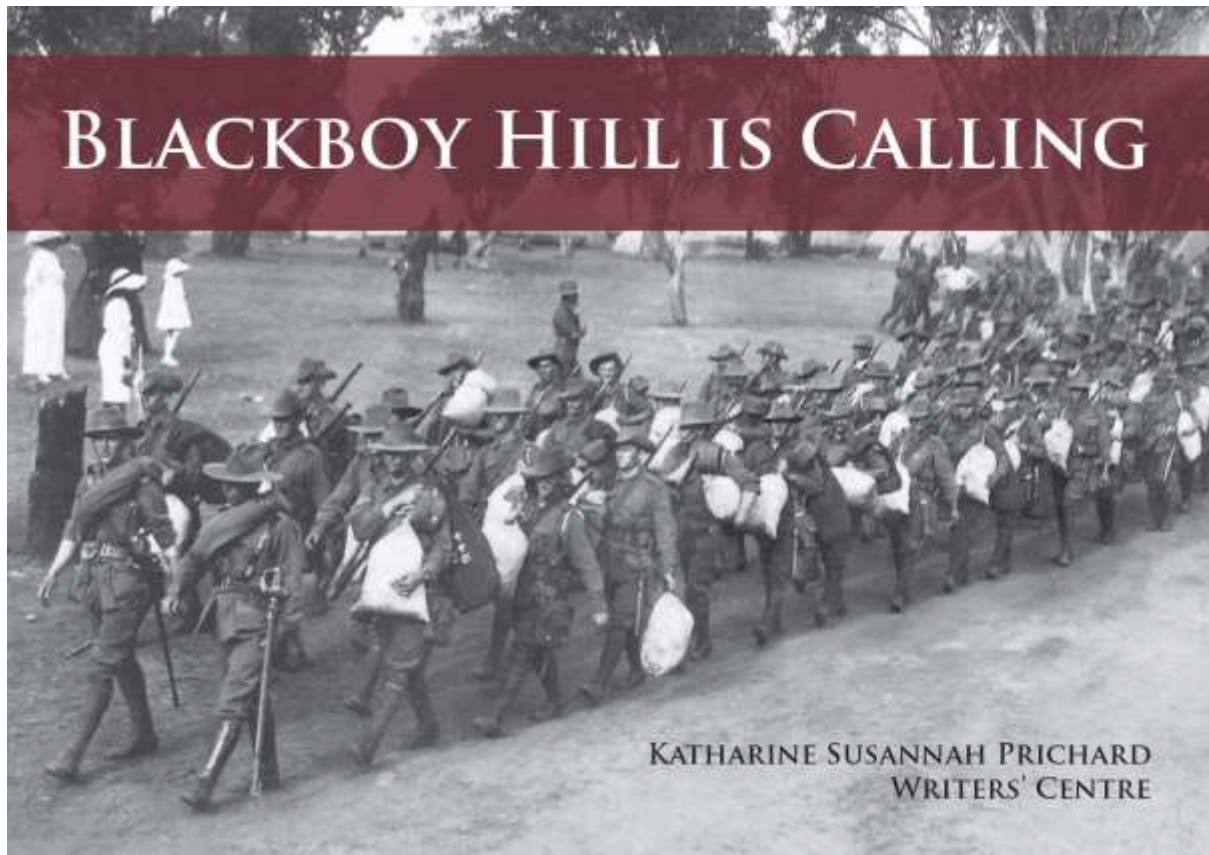


Blackboy Hill is Calling

Teachers' Notes



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Blackboy Hill is Calling

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Introduction

Blackboy Hill in Greenmount, Western Australia, was the site where approximately 32,000 men trained for the Australian Imperial Force before their departure for the Great War. The Training Camp was a lively place full of drills, marching, cooking, social activities and entertainment and not without its share of 'personalities' and larrikinism. These Teachers' Notes are designed to help teachers and students explore camp life and the significance of Blackboy Hill in Western Australia's history.

Skills development

Skills applied and developed in these teachers' notes include:

- Reading and comprehension
- Creativity – sketching
- Picture/photograph analysis and inferential interpretation
- Numeracy – Venn diagram
- Research and investigation
- Literacy
 - letter writing
 - story writing
 - diary writing
- Vocabulary development and extension

1 Comprehension – Chapter 3 - *First Recruits*

1 What date did Great Britain declare war? _____ (page 20)

Australia declared war the following day, on the _____ (page 20)

2 List the physical requirements for recruits to be accepted into the AIF, Australian Imperial Force. (page 21)

Height _____

Age _____

Chest _____

Men could be rejected for having (page 21)

3 Blackboy Hill was established on the day the first recruits arrived. What was that date? (page 21)

4 The first units to be raised in Western Australia were the _____ Battalion and two companies of the _____. (page 20)

5 Describe the men who were training at Blackboy Hill, i.e. their occupations and where they came from.

What adjectives (describing words) were used to describe them? Refer to the poem and text on page 22.

Occupations of men	Where they came from	Adjectives (to describe them)

6 Read about the **daily routine** of a recruit in training from the newspaper extract 'The Expeditionary Force, Yesterday's Doings' (page 25)

Complete the following table showing the daily routine

Time	Activity
6.15	
6.30	
6.45	
7.30-8.00	
8.00-1.00	
1.00-2.00	
2.00-5.00	
5.00-6.00	
6.00-10.00	
10.00	Lights out!

Recruits also had to do regular activities. Find out the meaning of the following;

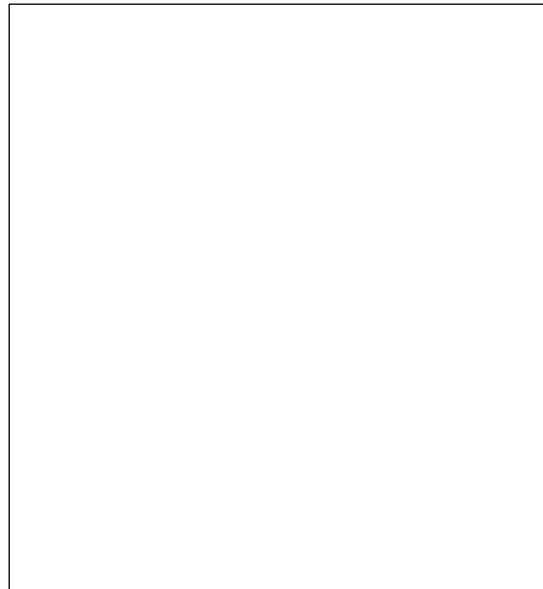
A Kit inspection

B Parade

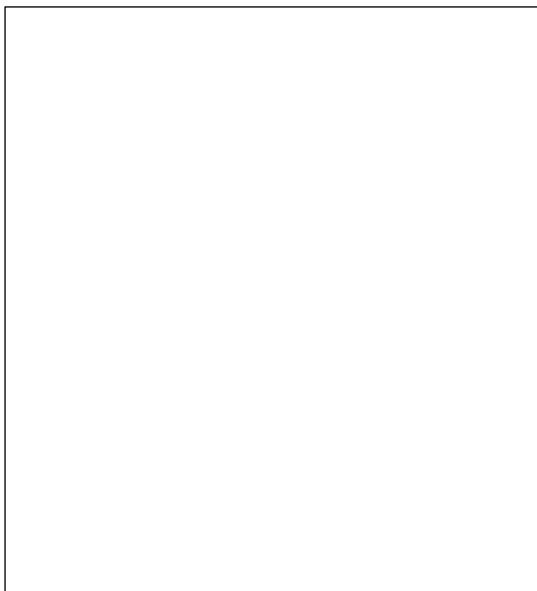
7 Training was tough at Blackboy Hill to mould recruits into fighting soldiers. Illustrate (draw) the exercises the men did at Blackboy Hill in the following areas;



1 Leg exercises



2 Bayonet attacks



3 Trench attacks/training



4 Rifle exercises

2 Photograph study (1) - Marching out drill – page 29.

This picture was taken on Sunday 30 November 1914. It shows men from the 11th Battalion practicing marching out (leaving) Blackboy Hill.



Describe what you see in the picture

Inferential questions

(you have to guess the answers from clues shown and by interpreting the picture)

1 The two soldiers at the front, leading H Company, are 2nd Lieutenants. In other words, they are Officers, who lead and give orders to their subordinates. How are they dressed differently to the rest of the men?

2 Why do you think the officers are dressed differently?

3 The rest of the men are carrying their black and white kits (sacks). What do you think would be inside if they were really departing for the War?

4 Who else is pictured in the photograph? Why do you think they are there?

5 Can you describe something else that is interesting about this photograph?

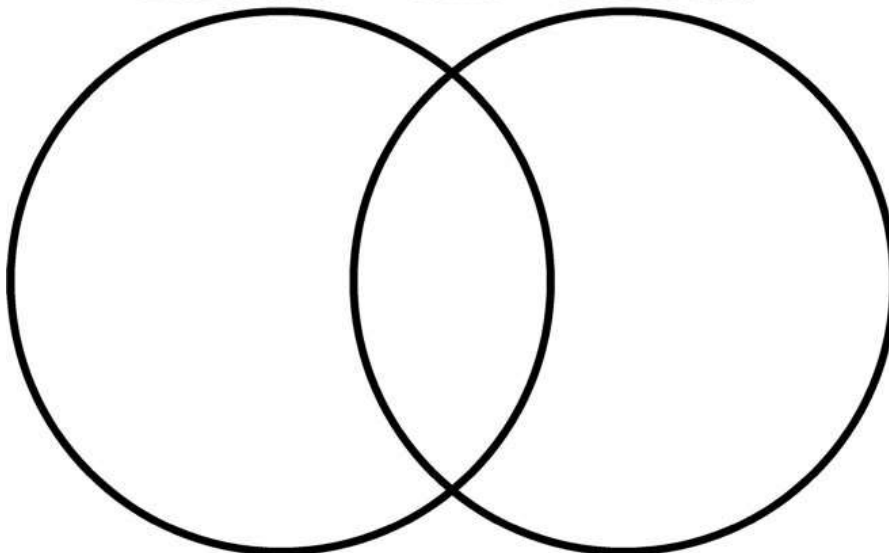
Photograph study (2) – A section of the 11th Battalion at lunch - Page 26



Study the picture of recruits at lunch at Blackboy Hill in 1914. Think about **how, where, when and what** the soldiers ate and compare these to **you** eating your lunch at school TODAY. **Complete the Venn diagram.**

VENN DIAGRAM

Different ***Same*** ***Different***



Big left Circle

Me at school
and differences

Overlap

Similarities of Me
and Men at Blackboy Hill

Big right Circle

Men at Blackboy Hill
and differences

3 Photograph investigation – the 11th Battalion at Cheops, Egypt, January 1915



Sources for information:

- 1 Go to the website of WAGS, the Western Australian Genealogical Society which conducted a project on the photograph – 11btn.wags.org.au
- 2 Go to a news report www.news.com.au/pyramidphoto

1 How many men are in the photograph? _____

2 Write down five interesting facts about this picture

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

3 Write two myths (untruths) about this photograph.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

4 Imagine you are one of the soldiers in the photograph. How would you have felt being part of the photograph?

4 **In your own words explain why you think this photograph is famous.**

4 Letter writing – Life in Camp

Read through one or a selection of the following Chapters:

- 3 – *The First Contingent*
- 4 – *Training an Expeditionary Force*
- 5 – *Feeding an Army*
- 6 – *Battalions and Reinforcements*
- 7 – *Medical Corps*
- 9 – *The YMCA*

Imagine you are a **recruit** and write a letter to your **parents or sweetheart** telling them about **life in camp at Blackboy Hill**.

You might include information on;

- Training
- The food
- Other recruits you share a tent or hut with
- Entertainment at the YMCA
- The hardships faced in the Camp
- Your feelings about departing from the Camp to go to the war
- An amusing, sad or interesting incident

Consider: *what you see, what you do and how you feel.*

Use the space below to write rough notes, if needed.

5 Newspaper article – YOU be a journalist

Imagine that you are a journalist/reporter for the newspaper produced for the soldiers in the Camp, the ***Camp Chronicle***. Write an article for the paper in **150 words or less** describing an **amusing incident** that happened at Blackboy Hill.

Remember to include:

- A catchy heading
- A by line – the name of the author that appears between the heading and the first paragraph
- **The five 'ws' of the story**
 - **Who** is the incident about?
 - **What** is the incident about?
 - **Where** did the incident happen?
 - **When** did the incident happen?
 - **Why** did the incident happen?

Use the space below to write rough notes, if needed.

Heading _____

By line _____

Who is the incident about?

What is the incident about?

Where did the incident happen?

When did the incident happen?

Why did the incident happen?

Draft or good copy

6 Diary writing – a week at Blackboy Hill

Read some or a selection of chapters as listed in Activity 5. Write entries into your diary to tell **what you did, thought about and saw** at the Camp, every day for one week from the viewpoint of one of the following people:

- A recruit
- A stretcher bearer
- A nurse or doctor
- A YMCA entertainer visiting the camp
- A musician in the Blackboy Hill Band
- An army/drill instructor
- A cook
- An Officer in charge of a Company

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Imagine that one of the days you include a sketch of something about the Camp. What would it be and can you draw it?

7 Conscription – research the topic, list arguments for and against, choose a point of view and design a poster.

Conscription is **compulsory service in the armed forces during a time of war**. In Australia during the Great War, there were two referenda on conscription, one in **1916** and one in **1917**, which were both defeated. **Interestingly, Western Australia voted ‘yes’ in both cases.**

Some background about the conscription referenda is in Chapter 8 - **Camp Chronicle** pages 79-82.

Do further research about arguments ‘for’ and ‘against’ conscription in World War I and discuss them as a class.

For conscription

Against conscription

Choose a point of view and design a poster ‘for’ or ‘against’ conscription. Google **Conscription posters World War I Australia** to get more ideas. Conscription was a controversial and emotional issue, so think about colour, illustrations and the words you will use to portray your point of view.

8 Letter to a past soldier on 'Blackboy Hill as a commemorative site'.

Read Chapter 17 - *Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site*.

Blackboy Hill is preserved as a heritage site. It is an important place in Western Australia's history because it commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of more than 32,000 recruits who trained there for combat in World War I.

The site has many features that commemorate the soldiers, for example:

- The Commemorative Arches – ellipses
- The seat dedicated to the Gallipoli Legion of Anzac
- The Lone Pine tree
- Plaques for the Victoria Cross recipients
- The information boards

Some important events take place at Blackboy Hill each year to commemorate the significance of the site, for example:

- The sunset service on the 24th April
- The Dawn Service on the 25th April
- The Remembrance Day Service on the 11th November

Your task

Choose a soldier from **Chapter 14 - *Soldier Profiles*** and write him a letter explaining:

- Why Blackboy Hill is important in our State's history
- How Blackboy Hill has been preserved as a commemorative site
- The services held there to remember the service and sacrifice of the soldiers
- What groups of people, young and old, are involved with the site
- *Plus*, anything else you would like to add to your letter

9 Word sleuth – Daily rations

Read page 40 of Chapter 5 – *Feeding an Army* which lists the daily rations for a recruit at Blackboy Hill.

List the rations below *(the items only, not the quantities)*:

Complete a word sleuth to incorporate the items from your list.

Daily rations - Blackboy Hill

10 Poetry – comprehension and interpretation

Read the poem 'Valedictory' on page 80 in Chapter 15 – *The Power of Poetry*

1 How does the soldier feel about going to war?

2 The 'boys who are left behind feel hipped'. What do you think the word **hipped** means in this context?

3 What things did the recruits grumble about at Blackboy Hill?

4 Who was the Battye bird?

5 Is the soldier who wrote this poem overall **positive or negative** about Blackboy Hill?

Give **evidence** for your answer

6 What evidence is there that the **war is still in progress**?

7 Choose a **favourite poem** from the book and explain **why you like it** and **how it makes you feel**.

Name of poem _____

Why I like it _____

How it makes me feel _____

End of Activities.

Teachers are welcome to download and reproduce copies of the activities.

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We welcome your feedback. If you would like to send us comments please email us at

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Thank you for supporting the
Blackboy Hill is Calling
book project.

