1. Why are there war graves in Israel, Palestine and Gaza?
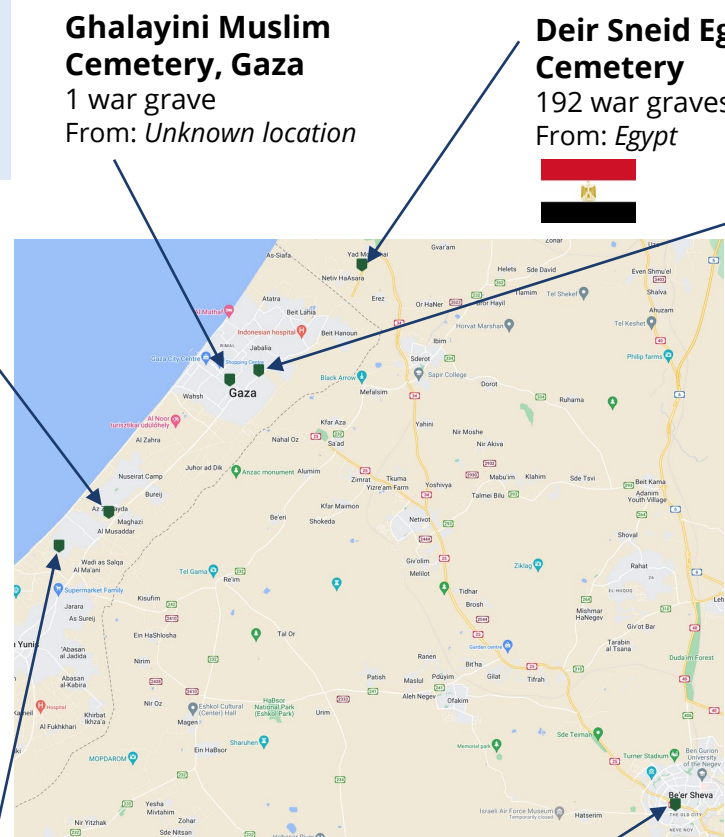
At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine (now Israel) was part of the Turkish Empire. Soldiers from across the British Empire fought across this region in 1916 and 1917. During 1917, there were three major battle fought at Gaza , resulting in the capture of the city in November 1917. Meanwhile, on 31 October 1917, an attack was launched near Beersheba. That evening the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade famously charged over the Turkish trenches into the town. Fighting moved north through Palestine, eventually resulting in the defeat of Turkish forces in October 1918. Many of the cemeteries today mark battlefields and bases where hospitals were established.

2. Where are the war graves?

Today, there are CWGC war graves and memorials at more than 30 locations in in Israel, Palestine and Gaza. Study the map below to see where some of them are.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of the soldiers who are buried and remembered in this region came from.

Ghalayini Muslim Cemetery, Gaza
1 war grave
From: *Unknown location*

Deir Sneid Egyptian Cemetery
192 war graves
From: *Egypt*

Gaza War Cemetery
3691 war graves
From: *Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guiana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe*

Deir El Belah War Cemetery
732 war graves
From: *Australia, Canada, Germany, Guiana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom*

Deir El Belah Egyptian Cemetery
732 war graves
From: *Egypt*

Beersheba War Cemetery
1239 war graves
From: *Australia, Barbados, Guiana, India, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom*

4.1 Each headstone in the cemetery tells a different story.

As you explore the cemetery see what you can learn from the headstones. See if you can find the following;

1. Who is the **youngest** soldier you can find?
2. Who is the **oldest** soldier you can find?
3. How many **different countries** did they come from, based on the information on the headstones.

4.2 There are three headstones which have this medal engraved on. It is the Victoria Cross, awarded for supreme bravery. Who in **Plot F** was awarded it?
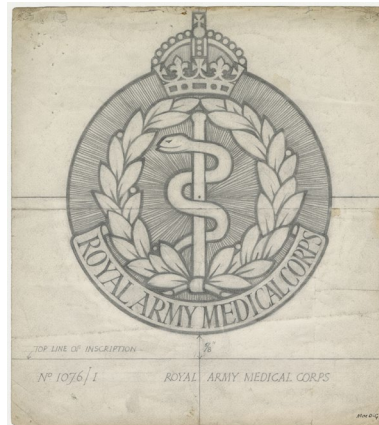
4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the different badges on the headstones. These will give you a clue as to the role the person had and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, **write down the name of the person who served with that unit in the box** next to the badge.
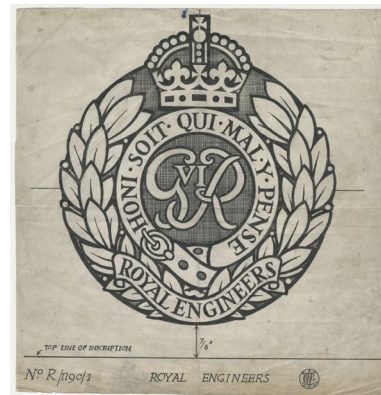

More than 320,000 Australian troops fought in Egypt, Gallipoli, in the Middle East and on the Western Front.
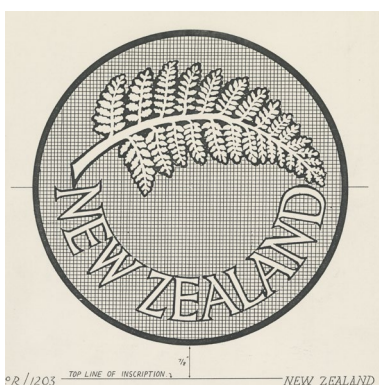

The British West Indies Regiment recruited across the Caribbean. Its soldiers served in Europe and in the Middle East. More than 15,000 West Indians served in the war.

The Royal Army Medical Corps provided medical support to the troops fighting, running medical units and hospitals

The Royal Engineers were responsible for specialist building, engineering and maintenance tasks.

More than 100,000 troops, including native Māori's left New Zealand for service overseas in Samoa, Gallipoli, the Middle East, Belgium and France.

Many infantry regiments in the British Army were named after the areas from which many men came from.