

Victoria's Avenues of Honour

Reconnecting with our past 2013-2018



Primary School Teachers Manual. Downloadable PDF documents full of a range of activities for different ages and levels.

Activities for Primary School Students

As we approach the centenary of the First World War, communities Australia-wide are searching for ways in which to remember and commemorate those who experienced the devastation of that terrible conflict. The National Trust of Australia (Vic) has begun an initiative to assist Victorian communities identify and appreciate the history of their memorial Avenues of Honour. This manual has been developed to assist students gain a better understanding of their local history and heritage.

Note: These activities have been designed so that a range of class levels will be able to participate in this project. It is up to the teacher to choose what activities will be appropriate for their class. Some activities between primary and secondary levels do overlap, again it is up to the teacher to decide how to present the activities, and extend them if necessary.

It is also important to bear in mind that no two Avenues of Honour are the same, nor are they in the same condition. Many are in poor health and incomplete, or completely lost. These activities have been designed so that each school can apply their own circumstances to each activity. They are not designed to apply to everyone.

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Avenue of Honour Poetry.

Using these beginnings, individually or as a class complete a poem about your local Avenue of Honour.

1. (Personification)

Tall, shady and green
Over the years I have seen...

2. (Haiku: 5-7-5)

Planted to honour...

3. (Rhyming)

Standing to attention row upon row
We remain here still, watching the town grow...

4. (Cinquain: 2-4-6-8-2)

Stand Tall...

5. (Limerick: AABBA)

There was a soldier from _____...

Or, ask your class to come up with their own poem about the local Avenue of Honour.

Creative Writing.

*Creative writing is a great way to help children think about a topic in an imaginative way!
These topics have been designed to help your class write about your local Avenue of Honour.*

1. Write from the point of view of a memorial tree watching an Anzac Day march through town.
2. Write from the point of view of a mother/father/brother/ sister/friend planting a memorial tree to remember a soldier after the First World War.
3. Write an adventure story about yourself that centres around the local Avenue of Honour.
4. (Newspaper heading... write the story) "Breaking News: Local Avenue under threat!"
5. (Continue this story) "You wouldn't believe what just happened to me! I was just walking by the Avenue of Honour when I looked up and in one of the trees and..."
6. Write a story about a soldier who has returned from the First World War and looks after the tree commemorating his friend who died at war.
7. Write a story from the point of view of an old woman who remembers when the town had an Avenue of Honour. What is her story? What does she think about the soldiers not being remembered by the local community today?
8. Write a story about a boy/girl who learn that their town once had an Avenue of Honour, and their quest to remember the soldiers in a new Avenue today.
9. Write a story from the point of view of a tree who was once part of an Avenue of Honour but whose community no longer remember he is there today
10. Write a story about why you think commemorating your town's Avenue of Honour is important for the 100 year anniversary of the First World War.

Or, set your own creative writing task for your class that applies to your local Avenue of Honour.

Walking Tour.

As a class or as an activity children can do outside school hours with their parents, take a walk to your town's Avenue of Honour. Ask your class question about their experience to get them thinking about Avenues of Honour. You can use ones provided for you below, or come up with your own.

1. What did you see there? (How many trees did you see? Did they have plaques on them?)
2. Do you think that these trees are important for our community? If so, why? If not, why not?
3. Can you draw a picture of one of the memorial trees?
4. What else is nearby? (Is there a sign telling you there is an Avenue of Honour here? Is there a war memorial monument nearby?)
5. Why do you think this spot was chosen to plant the town's Avenue of Honour?
6. How tall do you think the trees are?
7. Did you know that these trees made up an Avenue of Honour?
8. Do you think these trees need the communities help? If so, what do you think you can do to help these trees?
9. How do you think you can help educate others about your town's Avenue of Honour?
10. What have you learnt about this Avenue?

Community Event Flyer.

If your school plans on holding an Avenue of Honour Awareness Day for the community, ask your class to design their own posters and flyers advertising the day to be distributed locally. Make sure they have:-

1. A title
2. Time and Date of the event
3. Where will the event be held
4. Information of what the day is about
5. A note to say that everyone is welcome to join
6. A note of what kind of activities, displays, talks and speeches will occur on the day
7. Contact Details of the Event organisers
8. Any other information that might need to be added to advertise your particular event (eg: Please loan us any information, pictures, letters that you may have for the Avenue of Honour Awareness Day.)

Make a Video.

Ask your class to create a short video about your local Avenue of Honour. The purpose of this activity is for class members to raise awareness of Avenues of Honour in our community. A video could be played at a community event, school assembly or at a local Anzac Day ceremony. These can also be uploaded to the National Trust Avenue of Honour Awareness Website to share with others. You could talk about

1. What your class has discovered about your Avenue of Honour.
2. What your class believe could be done to help protect the Avenue for the future.
3. Some stories about some of the soldiers commemorated by the Avenue of Honour.
4. A short video about why it is important to remember our service personnel.
5. Why your class think your Avenue of Honour is important.

Write a Newspaper Article.

Individually or as a class, write an article for your local newspaper. Some topics your article could focus on include

1. Why your local Avenue of Honour is important to the community.
2. Why it should be remembered into the future.
3. How the community have forgotten your town's Avenue of Honour.
4. What you are a school are doing to remember your town's Avenue of Honour.
5. All of the things you have discovered about your town's Avenue of Honour.

Alternatively, come up with your own topic to construct a newspaper article around that is relevant to your community's Avenue of Honour.

Remembrance through Art.

Create a piece of art to commemorate your local Avenue of Honour. This could be a painting, sculpture, print, or something else!

Research Tasks.

Using the National Archive's Trove, what can your class discover about your local Avenue of Honour? Below are some questions that you may like to put to them.

1. When was the Avenue of Honour first planted?
2. Who planted the trees?
3. How many trees were originally planted?
4. What species of trees were planted?
5. Did the Avenue of Honour ever come under threat? (eg: Roadworks?)
6. Are there any old photos of the Avenue of Honour?

Using Mapping our Anzacs what can your class discover about the soldiers commemorated in the Avenue of Honour? (You could do the research as a class or get each class member to pick a soldier to research.)

Can you find out information on these soldiers including

1. When did they enlist?
2. How old were they when they enlisted?
3. What did they look like?
4. Where did they serve?
5. How old they were?
6. Did they survive the war?
7. Were they wounded?
8. Did they get sick?
9. Were they ever disciplined for their behaviour?

Further research on soldiers can be done by looking at websites such as; Trove, Red Cross wounded and missing files, Australian War Memorial and the National Library of Australia.

Oral History Interviews.

Oral history interviews are a fantastic way for students to gain a better understanding of their local community's past, as well as creating a unique historical record that can be preserved for future generations. They are also a great way to get students to engage with their local community.

Using the set of questions below (or make up your own), organise for your students to record the stories and personal memories about the local Avenue of Honour from members of the community.

If your community is holding an Avenue of Honour Awareness Day, this might be a great place to conduct the interviews! Otherwise, ask the local RSL or historical society if they can advertise that you are looking for people to interview!

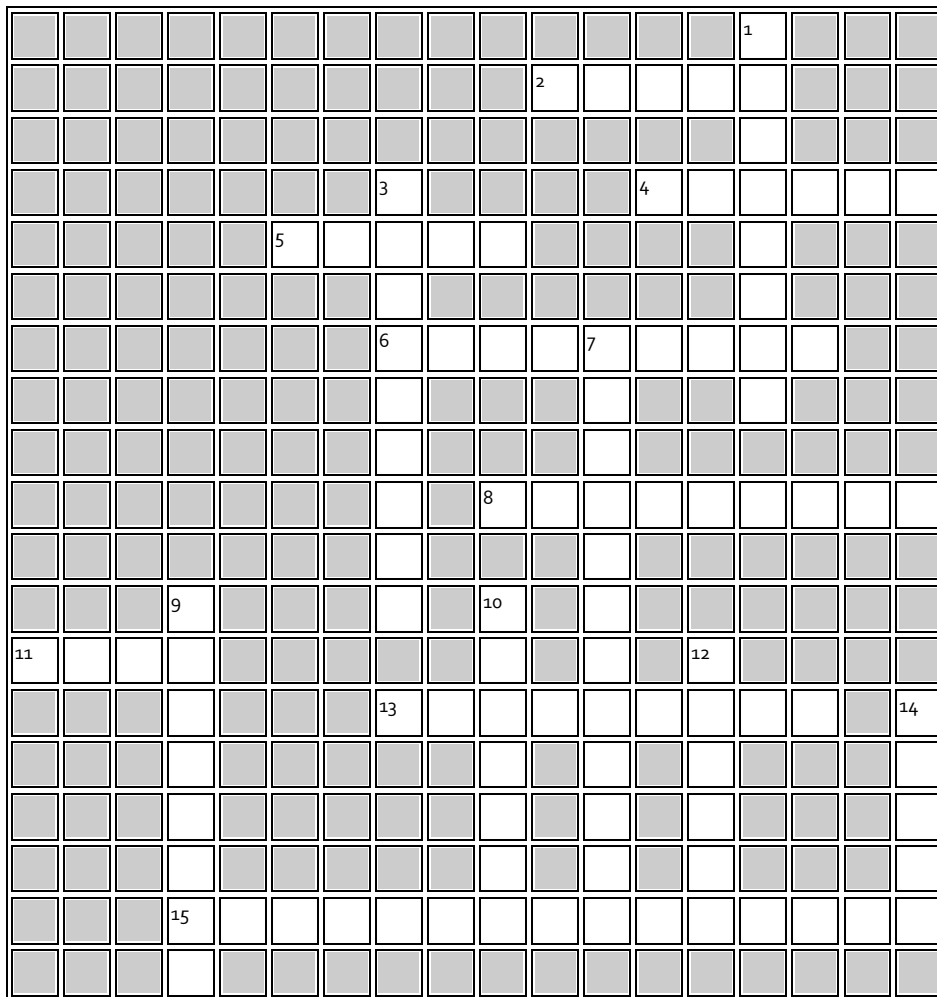
When you are ready to conduct the interviews, give each student a printed out page of interview questions. Ask them to write down everything the person they are interviewing says. Alternatively, if your school has a video camera, you may ask the students to record the person they are interviewing while they read out the questions.

These records have the capacity to be made into a book, or a video presentation to display for the community.

Oral History Interview Questions.

1. Were you aware that your town had an Avenue of Honour?
2. What does the Avenue of Honour mean to you?
3. Are you glad that the Avenue of Honour is being commemorated once more?
4. What do you know about the Avenue of Honour's history?
5. Do you have a relative that is commemorated on the Avenue of Honour? Can you tell us about them?
6. Can you remember any of the other soldiers who are commemorated on our local Avenue of Honour? Can you tell us about them?
7. Why do you think the Avenue of Honour is important to the community?
8. Do you have any personal stories about the Avenue of Honour?
9. Is there anything you would like to tell the future residents of your town one hundred years from now about our local Avenue of Honour?
10. Is there anything else about the Avenue of Honour that you would like to record?
11. What would you like to be seen done to help preserve the Avenue of Honour for the future?

Avenue of Honour Crossword.



Across

2. A Women who went to war was most likely a
4. The hat worn by Australian soldiers ----- hat
5. A part of an Anzac Day service that involves veterans walking.
6. The day in which we commemorate war in Australia.
8. The name of the song the bugler plays at Anzac Day.
11. What is an Avenue of Honour made up of?
13. A WWI battle in Turkey
15. On the 11th of November each year we commemorate

Down

1. The Avenue of Honour is a war -----
3. Another name for World War I
7. Compulsory military service
9. The war dead were buried overseas in a
10. Trees stand to remember them.
12. Located on many memorial trees, often has a soldiers name on it.
14. The flower of remembrance.

Avenues of Honour Word Search.

F R E I N F A N T R Y R A N R A Z
X U E N N O T E R B S R E L L I V
L O A C S M I I W S Y W R S O R A
M N E A N D R T R V E A D F T F S
M O E S P Y C E A E P R L R E O N
E H A S R E C N A R B M E M E R T
P F R O M E L L E S O E I I L C P
P O K R E F E F T R S M F A Z E O
N E C C E M E T E R Y O E R O O P
O U O D E I F L U M C R L M B Y P
S N H E F O Y N C E T I T D M N Y
O E S R O H T H G I L A T R I O E
A V L H H I L O P I L L A G C E C
A A L M C Z T E K Y H W B N E L R
E V E T E R A N N C B A E A Z R E
R I H S O C A A G M C A R R A A A
M E S E E T N M I T C V U T M R C

AIFORCE

BATTLEFIELD

GALLIPOLI

NAVY

POZIERES

SOLDIER

VILLERS BRETONNEUX

ANZAC

CEMETERY

INFANTRY

NURSE

RED CROSS

TANK

WAR

ARMY

COMMEMORATION

LIGHT HORSE

PEACE

REMEMBRANCE

TREES

WAR MEMORIAL

AVENUE OF HONOUR

FROMELLES

MARCH

POPPY

SHELLSHOCK

VETERAN

Acrostic Puzzle.

Using these letters, come up with a story or poem about an Avenue of Honour.

A _____

V _____

E _____

N _____

U _____

E _____

O _____

F _____

H _____

O _____

N _____

O _____

U _____

R _____

What are these words?

The list of words below have been constructed to help you introduce your class to war remembrance and commemoration.

ANZAC: First used during WWI, ANZAC is an acronym used in reference to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Anzac Day: The 25th of April. This day is commemorated by both Australians and New Zealanders and marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. On Anzac Day we remember the sacrifice and service of our service personnel in all wars.

Remembrance Day: The 11th of November. This day is commemorated world wide and marks the end of World War I.

Gallipoli: The name of an area on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey where the Australian Infantry Force first experienced battle during World War I.

Dawn Service: An early morning remembrance service held on Anzac Day at dawn.

Avenue of Honour: A war memorial made of trees, often planted by family members in remembrance of their dead loved ones who died in war. They are most common in Australia, and particularly in Victoria.

AIF: An acronym for Australian Imperial Force, the term to describe the Australian fighting forces during WWI and WWII. Today, the Australian fighting force is known as the ADF or the Australian Defence Force.

War Memorial: A monument used as a focus of remembrance and loss. Often raised by communities to remember their war dead.

Shellshock: A traumatic illness suffered by many soldiers and nurses after experiencing war. Today we know this as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Poppy: The flower used as a symbol of remembrance. Poppies grew commonly over the battlefields of France and Belgium.

Western Front: The theatre of War covering France and Belgium. Over 270,000 Australians fought on the Western Front during World War I, and some 45,000 died there.

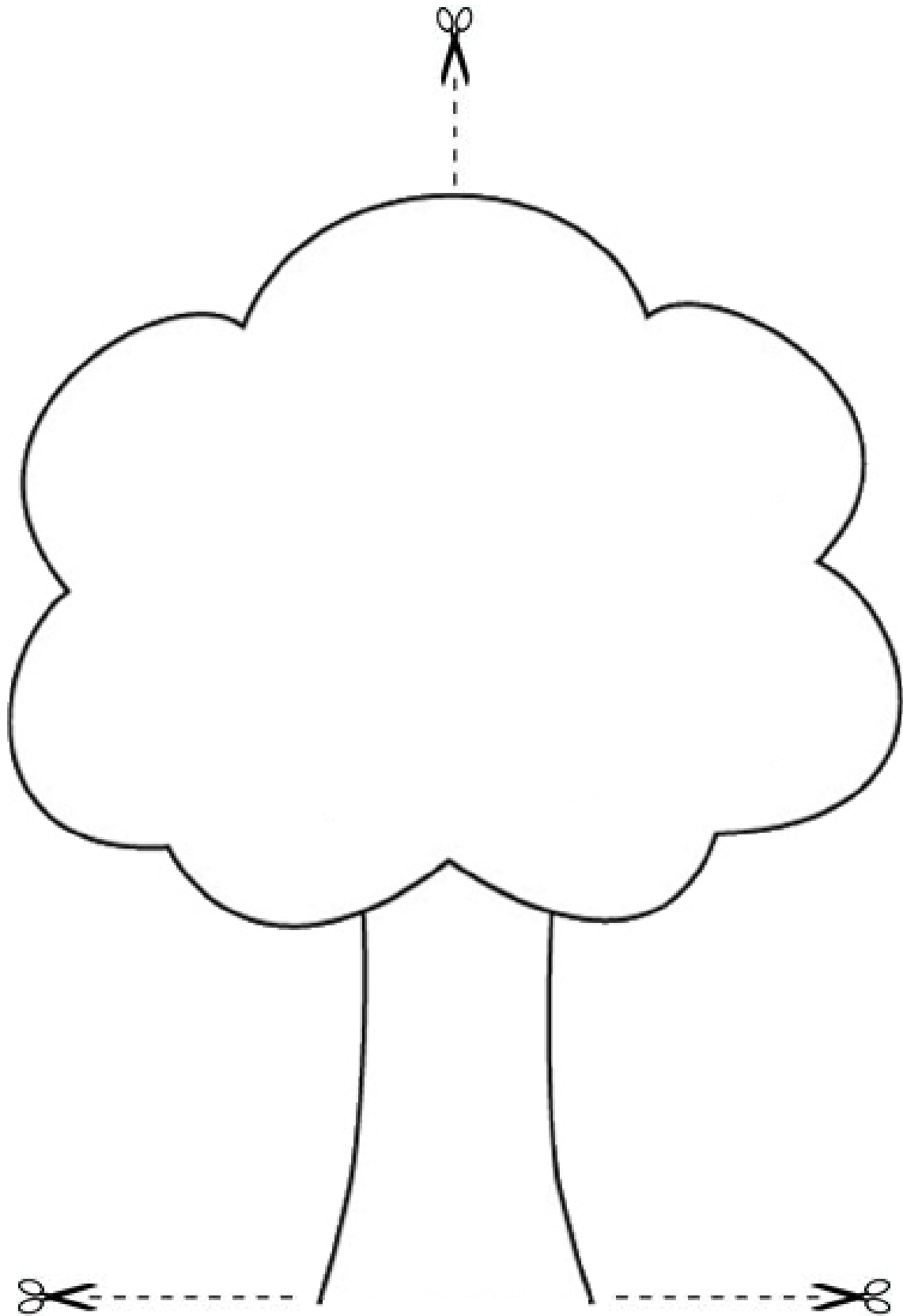
Middle East: The theatre of War covering parts of present day Egypt, Israel and Syria.

World War I: Also known as the Great War, or the First World War. It lasted from August 1914 until November 1918.

Cut and colour your own Avenue.

By printing out the template on the next page, your class (or school) can make their very own Avenue of Honour! They can be as brightly coloured or decorated as you like. Once completed, your Avenue can be displayed through the school or at a community day.

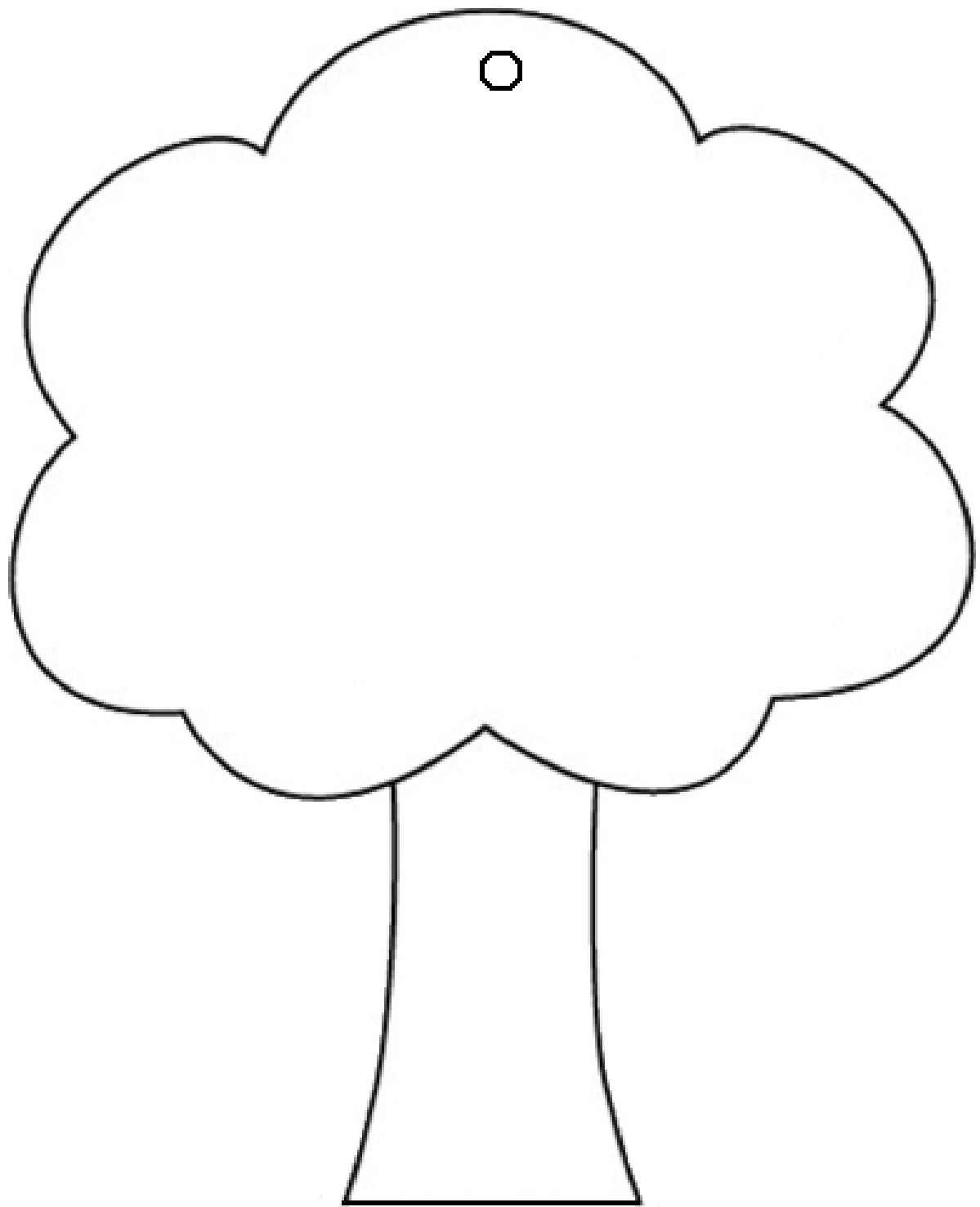
- 1. Print out a tree template for each class member on a piece of card, or
Print out tree template on an A4 piece of paper and ask your class to glue it to a piece of card.*
- 2. Ask your class to colour in their tree.*
- 3. Make a single cut along the dotted line at the top of the page and cut around the outline of the tree. Stop at the bottom of the tree's trunk, leaving the base. Do not cut out entire tree!*
- 4. Ask the children to stand the tree up by bending the cut out forward. (A paper stand can be made to support tree if necessary.)*
- 5. Glue or sticky-tape the dotted line back together.*
- 6. Line up your class's trees to form your own Avenue of Honour.*



String-a-long Avenue.

By printing out the template on the next page, your class (or school) can make their very own string-a-long Avenue of Honour! Once completed, your Avenue can be strung up through the school or at a community day as a colourful display!

- 1. Print out a tree template for your class.*
- 2. Ask your class to decorate the tree using a range of different materials. (This activity can be extended for older students. Ask each child to make a tree for a specific soldier, ect)*
- 3. Carefully cut out template, including hole at the top of the tree.*
- 4. String your class' trees together to make your own Avenue of Honour.*



Activities your school can do to help run an Avenue of Honour Awareness Day.

An Avenue of Honour Awareness Day is a wonderful opportunity to get your school students to engage with their local community and participate in community activities. Here are some ideas of events that can help students be aware of their place and role in helping the local community.

1. Wear Green Day. This can be done at school as a fundraising activity to raise money for new plaques, commemorative tree plantings, or to buy memorial tablets for your local Avenue.
2. Organise a visitor from the local RSL, Legacy, Garden History Society, National Trust or Historical Association to speak to the school about Avenues of Honour and the role and place of these memorials in our society. Alternatively, your students could visit the RSL and speak to its members about the local Avenue of Honour.
3. Ask the local historical society help your students research the history of the Avenue of Honour online. Alternatively, using the National Archive's Trove, get you class to research your local Avenue of Honour.
4. Hold a commemorative tree planting event at your school. Can you plant a single tree of remembrance somewhere in your school grounds?
5. Make a presentation at assembly about everything your class has found out about your town's Avenue of Honour.
6. Take a photo of your school in front of your Avenue of Honour.