



Albert Borella  
THE BORELLA RIDE

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Letter to the home front  
Year 3 to Year 6

## Letter to the home front

### Lesson objective

Students to write a postcard from a soldier's perspective in World War I.

### National Curriculum Links

- History [past and present]
- English [writing, develop texts]
- Art [create an artwork depicting a war scene]

### Key Fact

The postcard was 'invented' in Austria in 1869. At first only pre-stamped, plain cardboard postcards were used, but soon they carried all manner of artwork and photographs besides their personal message. The postcard industry reached its peak during World War I, as millions of civilians and soldiers sent hasty messages back and forth. Soldiers at the Front could only send terse, pre-printed cards from the trenches ["I a well", "I am wounded", "I am in receipt of your letter" etc], but they could easily find commercial postcards in the villages just behind the front lines.

### Task

Brainstorm what the students know about postcards. Look at a range of postcards, from modern ones at the post office today to photos of ones from World War I.

- What do they have on them?
- Why do people send them?

Pretend you are a soldier in World War I. Create and design a postcard (front and back) and write a message on it.

### Extension Activities

Pretend you are Albert Borella on his journey from Tennant Creek to Darwin. Write a series of three diary entries from his point of view during his trip. What would he have seen? How would he have felt?



Examples of old postcards