



# THE BORELLA RIDE

A Tour of the Western Front  
Maths  
Year 7

## *A Tour of the Western Front*

### Lesson objective

Students will demonstrate their ability to solve a time and distance problem.

### Materials

This lesson requires a class set of atlases. The students can work from either the map provided, or the Australian Remembrance Trail on the Western front site at

<http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/australian-remembrance-trail/where-australians-fought.php>

### Key Facts

Most Australians who fought in the First World War were on the Western Front, an area in Europe including France and Belgium. Some 295,000 Australians fought there between 1916 and 1918.

### Task

Each year many Australians take a tour of the battlefields in France and Belgium. Your task is to plan a tour that best deals with problems of time, distance and objectives.

*Time* – Your trip can only be four days long

*Distance* - each day you'll be spending most of your time looking at the battlefields, so you can only drive 150 kilometres per day.

*Objectives* - Your objective is to visit as many Australian battlefields within the above restrictions, but you must start and end your tour in one of the cities named on the map.

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## Procedure

Using the map and list below draw the route of a four day drive on the map. The scale is in the bottom right hand corner of the map and the places numbered on the map are listed below.

## Locations on the Western Front where Australians fought:

1. **Passchendaele** October–November 1917  
Failed Australian attack in the final phase of 3rd Battle of Ypres.
2. **Broodseinde** October–November 1917  
Australian victory, the third in a series of successes after the Battle of Menin Road.
3. **Polygon Wood** September 1917 Australian victory at 3rd Battle of Ypres.
4. **Menin Road** September 1917 Beginning of the Australian participation in 3rd Battle of Ypres – Australian victory.
5. **Messines** June 1917 Australian victory – 3rd Divisions first major battle.
6. **Fromelles** July 1916 The 5th Division suffers a disastrous defeat in the first major Australian operation on the Western Front.
7. **Bullecourt** April–May 1917 During the Battle of Arras, the first Australian attack on Bullecourt fails, the second succeeds.
8. **Pozières** July–August 1916 1st Anzac Corps captures Pozières village and the heights beyond.
9. **Mouquet Farm** August–September 1916 Australian defeat – After Pozières, 1st Anzac Corps fails to capture Mouquet Farm.
10. **Le Hamel** July 1918 Brigades from 2nd, 3rd and 4th Australian Divisions capture Le Hamel.
11. **Villers-Bretonneux** April 1918 At the second battle of Villers-Bretonneux the Australians recapture the village.
12. **Mont St Quentin** September 1918 2nd Australian Division captures Mont St Quentin.
13. **Péronne** September 1918 South of Mont St Quentin, Péronne is taken by 5th Australian Division.



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14. **Bellenglise** September 1918 4th Division captures the Hindenburg Outpost Line in its last battle of the war.
15. **Gueudecourt** November 1916 Rested after Pozières, 1st Anzac Corps returns to the Somme, making limited gains.
16. **Lagnicourt** April 1917 The Australians repulse a German counterattack between the First and Second Battles of Bullecourt.
17. **Hébuterne** March–April 1918 4th Australian Division defensive victory.
18. **Dernancourt** March–April 1918 Australian defensive victory south of Albert.
19. **Morlancourt** March–June 1918 Between the Aisne and Somme rivers 2nd, 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions in turn advance towards Morlancourt.
20. **Hazebrouck** April 1918 1st Australian Division holds Hazebrouck against the German Sixth Army.
21. **Hangard Wood** April 1918 South of Villers-Bretonneux the Australians failed to capture Hangard Wood.
22. **Merris** May–June 1918 1st Australian Division, in a series of small operations, recovers ground lost in the German offensive.
23. **Etinehem** August 1918 13th Brigade [4th Division] captures Etinehem.
24. **Bray** August 1918 The Australians capture Bray as part of the general advance from 8 August.
25. **Proyart** August 1918 Several days after the commencement of the 8 August offensive, the Australian 10th brigade [3rd Division] captures Proyart.
26. **Chuignes** August 1918 Australians capture Chuignes ridge overlooking the Somme during the Second Battle of Albert.
27. **Lihons** August 1918 1st Australian Division captures Lihons.
28. **Bellicourt** September 1918 The Australian Corps breaks through the Hindenburg Line.
29. **Montbrehain** October 1918 The last phase of the Hindenburg Line breakthrough and the Australian infantry's last battle.