



Australian History Series
Book 6: Ages 11-12 years



Australia as a Nation

Aligned with the Australian National Curriculum



Section 1:
Australia's
Federation

Section 2:
Australian
Democracy
and Citizenship

Section 3:
Australian
Migrants

Section 4:
Contribution
of Migrants

Section 5:
History Tells
a Story



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Teachers' Notes

Australia as a Nation has been written for Australian students who are studying History in Year 6. It contains five sections which link closely to the National Curriculum.

- The first section helps students to develop an understanding of Australian Federation.
- The second section encourages students to explore the experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship for women, and asks students to research the experiences of another group further.
- The third section is entitled Australian Migrants and looks at the stories of people who have migrated to Australia and examines the reasons why they migrated.
- The fourth section explores the contributions that migrants have made to Australia and specifically focuses on the pearling industry and the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme.
- The final section of the book contains tasks to develop students' historical skills.

All of the activity sheets in *Australia as a Nation* have been written to engage students and maximise class participation. To make life easy for the teacher the answers are provided at the back of this book.

National Curriculum Links

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

ACHHK113 – Key features and events that led to Australia's Federation, including British and American influences on Australia's system of law and government.

ACHHK114 – Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders, migrants, and women.

ACHHK115 – Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia (including from ONE Asian country) and the reasons they migrated, such as World War II and Australian migration programs since the war.

ACHHK116 – The contribution of individuals and groups, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders and migrants, to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science, the arts and sport.

Historical Skills

ACHHS117 & ACHHS118 – Chronology, terms and concepts.

ACHHS119 & ACHHS120 – Historical questions and research.

ACHHS121 & ACHHS122 – Analysis and use of sources.

ACHHS123 – Perspectives and interpretations.

ACHHS124 & ACHHS125 – Explanation and communication.

Governments, Laws and Federation

The first governments and laws in Australia were those of Indigenous Australians. Before the arrival of Europeans, indigenous laws worked through the kinship system. Problems were solved quickly and punishments were given to those who did the wrong thing.

When the British came to Botany Bay they regarded Australia as terra nullius. This term means that the new arrivals believed that nobody owned the land. The rights of Indigenous Australians already living in Australia were not recognised. Their governments and laws were ignored and the British implemented their own political and legal systems.

Australia's first European government system consisted of a number of Governors who were appointed by the British government and responsible for making decisions for each colony. Each colony had one Governor and was self-governed. Australia at that time was a collection of colonies rather than one united country. After federation, the joining of the colonies, in 1901, a new system of government was developed. It was known as the Westminster system and was based on the British model. The Australian system of government today is largely based upon this model.

The word federation is used to describe the joining of separate states and colonies to form one nation. Federation did not take place easily, as each colony worried about losing its identity and wanted to keep many powers. A compromise had to be reached.

Arguments for federation:	Arguments against federation:
Protection against foreign threats/ national defence.	Majority rule would favour the stronger states.
Better trade between the states.	Voting was seen as not fair and democratic.
National railway line.	People wanted to spend time getting the constitution right.
A stronger Australia in world affairs.	Loss of state power.
Resistance against non-Europeans.	
The ability for Australia to govern itself.	

Some of the key players in the achievement of federation were:

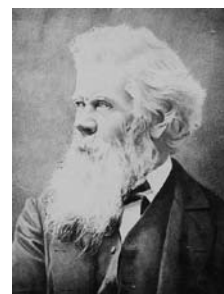
Henry Parkes: often called the 'Father of Federation' he made a famous speech in 1898 supporting federation;

Sir Edmund Barton: who played an important role in developing Australia's constitution and was Australia's first Prime Minister;

Alfred Deakin: who was a great supporter of federation and Prime Minister of Australia three times.



Sir Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin
Wikimedia Commons



Henry Parkes
Wikimedia Commons

Activity

Governments, Laws and Federation 1

- ☐ Imagine one of two scenarios:

Federation has NOT taken place and is being discussed today. Does your state or territory think federation is beneficial? Think about the advantages and disadvantages of your state or territory joining with the rest of Australia. What resources does your state have? How well would the people of the state fare if some decisions were to be made by a government in Canberra?

OR

Federation has taken place but your state or territory has decided it wants to secede (separate) from the rest of Australia. Why do you believe moving away from a united Australia will help you?

- ☐ In groups of four, complete a large eye-catching newspaper advertisement stating your case.

Sample

Extra

- ☐ Team up with another group of four who have taken a different opinion on federation than your group. Hold a debate. Use the back of the sheet to plan your points.

- ☐ Match the dates with the events.

1893

1889

1890

1897

1900

1901

Six colonies become a nation.

Henry Parkes makes a speech promoting federation.

The Australasia Federation Conference is held.

The first referendums for people to vote are held.

The result of Western Australia's referendum is yes.

The Constitution Bill is amended at a secret conference.

The People's Convention is held.

- ☐ Draw lines to divide Australia into five separate colonies.

- ☐ Colour each colony's state government a different colour.

- ☐ Write the year that each state agreed to become one nation inside the map.

- ☐ When did the colonies become the Commonwealth of Australia?

1901BC 1901AD 1901CE

- ☐ Use your research skills to find a copy of Henry Parkes' Tenterfield speech. Copy the line that you think is the most persuasive here.



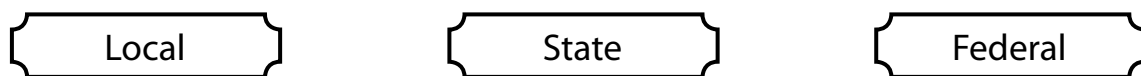
- ☐ Read through the federation timeline on page 9. Why do you think Western Australia was initially reluctant to join the federation?

Federalism

In 1901 when Australia became a federation, the new system of government was known as federalism. A federal system of government is one which has:

- *A national government;*
- *State governments;*
- *Division of powers between national and state governments. This means that although all states and territories are united they still remain independent.*

There are three levels of government in Australia:

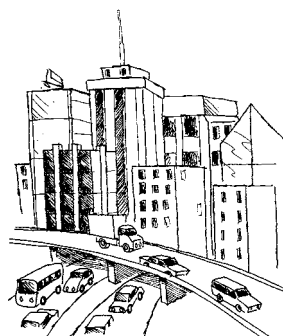
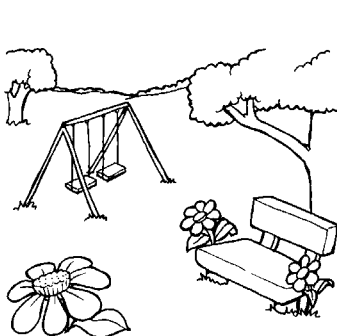


The roles and responsibilities of the various levels of government are quite different. Each state and territory also has its own government, which deals with issues specifically relating to the state. Elections are generally held every four years and the people of the state elect politicians to represent them in government.

Many day-to-day issues are the responsibility of local government. A local government represents the residents of a local area. There are more than 800 councils throughout Australia. Your local government may be known as a shire, town or city.

Some of the tasks of each type of government are shown in the table below.

Local Government	State Government	Federal Government
Rubbish disposal	Schools	Taxation
Libraries	Hospitals	Immigration
Footpaths	Police	Trade
Parks and ovals	Public transport	Defence
Building approvals	Making roads	International relations



Activity

Australian Democracy and Citizenship 1

READ PAGE 19 AND COMPLETE THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. Have all Australians always experienced democracy and citizenship in the same way?

2. Who was able to vote in early Australian governments?

3. What does the term suffrage mean?

4. What is a suffragette?

5. Examine the table on voting rights. Which state gave women the right to vote first?

6. Which state was the last to give women the right to vote?

7. When were indigenous women given the right to vote?

8. Use your research skills to find out if there are any countries which still deny women the right to vote.

Imagine



Imagine that you are a suffragette trying to gain the right to vote in your state.
List the reasons why you believe women should be given the same rights as men.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The women below have all played a very important role in the struggle for equal rights for women in the political process.

Henrietta Dugdale	Maria Kirk	Louisa Lawson	Mary Lee
Catherine Helen Spence	Vida Goldstein	Edith Cowan	Bessie Rischbieth
Ivy Weber	Enid Lyons	Dorothy Tangney	Beatrice Faust
Elizabeth Reid	Margaret Guilfoyle	Pauline Toner	Joan Child
Janine Haines	Joan Kirner	Carmen Lawrence	Margaret Reid

- ☐ Choose one of the women listed and in pairs complete some research to find out about the female's life and the contributions that she has made.
- ☐ In the space below write up her Facebook profile.

Facebook

Profile Picture

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Hometown: _____

Employer: _____

Relationship status: _____

Achievements:

Friends

Recent Activity:

Recent Comments: