Let your electoral knowledge bloom!

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy the following activity sheets will allow your students to enhance their awareness of Australia's electoral system through;

Knowing ✶ Understanding ✶ Applying ✶ Analysing ✶ Creating ✶ Evaluating

Online resources

For more classroom resources go to www.aec.gov.au/Education/Democracy_Rules/

These include a comprehensive teacher guide, investigations for students, activity sheets, on-line animations and interactives.

You will also find step-by-step instructions for conducting an election in your classroom including time saving resources such as ballot paper and scrutiny chart templates.
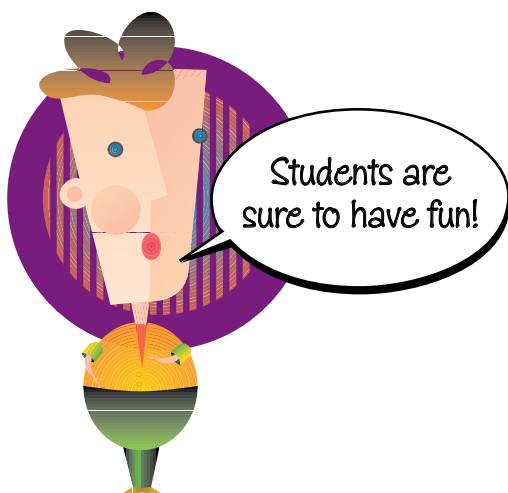
Other useful pages on the AEC website

For all AEC education resources and services www.aec.gov.au/Education/

To practise filling out a ballot paper try this voting tool www.aec.gov.au/Voting/How_to_vote/

For a simple explanation of vote counting www.aec.gov.au/Voting/counting/

For a timeline of major developments in our electoral history www.aec.gov.au/Elections/Australian_electoral_history/

Students are sure to have fun!

Knowing

- Find out the number of enrolled voters in your state and compare this to other states.

- Make an illustrated time line of Australia's voting history.

- Debate different systems of voting (full preferential, partial preferential, first past the post).

- Debate compulsory/voluntary voting.

- Describe how you would feel if the law prevented you from voting as it did to women and Indigenous people.

- Debate raising/lowering the voting age.

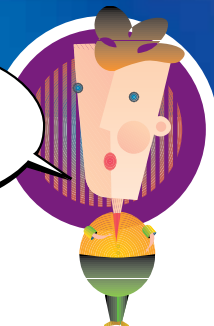**Let your electoral knowledge bloom!**

Understanding

- Make a cartoon strip to show how to vote formally.

- Discuss how people can participate in democracy other than by voting.

- Role-play an election including nominations and a double random ballot paper draw to select the order of candidates.

- Predict what might happen if we no longer had elections.

- Make a flow chart to show how the preferences flowed in a real election at your school.

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Applying

- Design a fact sheet on the electoral process.

- Explain how you would feel if you lived in a country where people were unable to vote.

- Develop a Snakes and Ladders type board game based on electoral processes e.g gain pre-selection/bribe an official/have a successful campaign launch etc.

- Choose music appropriate for an advertising campaign to encourage people to vote.

- Conduct your own elections at school.

- Examine why sometimes the person with the most preference votes is not elected in a federal election.

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Analysing

- Create a flow chart showing what happens when you go to a polling place.
- Develop a mind map of the electoral system.
- Design a poster to encourage people to enrol/vote.
- Explain how the election of a Senator is different to that of a Member of the House of Representatives.
- Develop an advertisement to encourage people to check their enrolment is up to date.
- Write a letter to the school Principal to demonstrate all you have learned about the electoral system.

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Creating

- Predict what might happen if voting was not compulsory.
- Invent a machine to count votes and identify formal votes.
- Prepare a three minute speech on a former Member for your electorate.
- Write a rap to explain parliamentary representation.
- Create a Y-chart to show what a good representative looks, sounds and feels like.
- Write a poem about enrolling to vote.

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Evaluating

- Construct arguments for and against full preferential voting.
- Compare democracies to other forms of government e.g. dictatorships, kingdoms, theocracies.
- Use the media/internet/newspapers to investigate how elections are held in other countries. Assess the effectiveness/fairness of these systems.
- Should changes be made to Senate representation for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory? Why/why not?
- Prepare arguments for/against permanent residents being able to vote.
- Should voters show identification at polling places? Discuss, and list the reasons why you do/do not think this is a good idea.

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