

Activity

Episode 2 11th February 2014

Constitution

Key Learning

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the events that led to Federation what a referendum is.

The Australian Curriculum

History / Historical Knowledge and Understanding / Australia as a Nation

Key figures and events that led to Australia's Federation, including British and American influences on Australia's system of law and government. (ACHHK113) Year 6



History / Historical Skills / Chronology, terms and concepts

Use historical terms and concepts (ACHHS118) Year 6



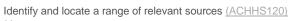
History / Historical Skills / Historical questions and research

Identify questions to inform an historical inquiry (ACHHS119)



















Discussion Questions

- 1. What is a constitution?
- 2. What sorts of things are set out in Australia's constitution?
- 3. No other law can overrule the constitution. True or false?
- 4. When was Australia's constitution drawn up?
- 5. Which group of people were discriminated against in the original constitution?
- 6. What is a referendum?
- 7. What two changes to the constitution happened as a result of the referendum in 1967?
- 8. Why do you think the constitution is described as the country's birth certificate?
- 9. Finish the following sentence: Australia's constitution still doesn't recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as...
- 10. Should Australia's constitution be changed? Give reasons for your answer.

History / Historical Skills / Explanation and communication

Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies (ACHHS125) Year 6







Activities

Class Discussion

Clarify students' understanding of the information in the BtN *Constitution* story. In pairs, students discuss the meaning of the following words:

Constitution Referendum Colonies Federation

Students then report back to the class to share their understandings.

Federation

Students will research why and how Australia became a nation. The following questions will help guide students' research.

Research questions

- What is Federation?
- When did it happen?
- · What significant events led to Federation?
- What are some reasons for and against Federation?
- What would Australia be like if Federation didn't occur?

Presenting your learning

- Create a timeline that shows significant events that led to Federation.
- On a map, show Australia before and after Federation
- Use Prezi to share your research http://prezi.com/

What is a referendum?

A referendum is a vote by the people. Every citizen who is eligible to vote has the right to vote on a given issue. Voters can accept or reject a government proposal put directly to them. Students will find out more about what a referendum is.

Research questions

- What is another word for referendum?
- How does a referendum work?
- When was the last referendum held?
- Are referendums important? Why or why not?
- Is it compulsory to vote in a referendum? Explain why?



The BtN story focussed on whether the constitution should be changed to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Develop an argument for or against holding a referendum.

Further investigation: Conduct research into the history of referendums that have been held in Australia and then create a timeline of successful and unsuccessful referendums.

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Republic http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3775972.htm

Recognise

http://www.recognise.org.au/

Recognise This (Youth Oriented Site) http://recognisethis.org.au/

Parliamentary Education Office - The Australian Constitution http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/closer-look/the-australian-constitution.html

Parliament of Australia – The Australian Constitution http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Senate/Powers_practice_n_procedures/Constitution

Australian Electoral Commission – Referendums http://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/referendums/

WA Museum - 1967 Referendum teacher resource

 $\underline{\text{http://museum.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/online/referendum/documents/1967\%20Referendum\%20Teacher\%20Referendum\%20R$

Creative Spirits - 1967 Referendum

http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/australian-1967-referendum

Australian Human Rights Commission - Constitutional Reform Fact Sheet https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/constitutional-reform-fact-sheet-recognising-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-people

National Archives of Australia – 1967 Referendum Fact Sheet http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs150.aspx

Reconciliation Australia – 1967 Referendum

http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/resources/school-resources/1967-referendum

