

Activity

Episode 28
14th October 2014

Burka Ban

Key Learning

Students will contribute to discussions about cultural and religious dress, in particular Islamic head dress. Students will investigate and celebrate the cultural diversity in their classroom.

The Australian Curriculum

Civics and Citizenship / Civics and Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding / Citizenship, diversity and identity

How a person's identity can be shaped by the different cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they may belong (ACHCK014) Year 4



How Australia is a secular nation and a multi-faith society (ACHCK051) Year 7



Civics and Citizenship / Civics and Citizenship Skills / Communication and Reflection

Reflect on their cultural identity and how it might be similar and different from others (ACHCS021) Year 4



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the *Burka Ban* story with another student. Record the main issues raised in the discussion.
2. Eman's family are _____ which means they follow the religion of _____.
3. Which type of Islamic headwear do Eman and Manal wear?
4. Why do they choose to wear it?
5. Describe the differences between the hijab, niqab and burka.
6. Why are some people calling for the burka to be banned from public places?
7. What is the Prime Minister's viewpoint on this issue?
8. How have some people responded to Eman wearing a hijab?
9. What does Eman want people to understand about Islamic headwear?
10. What's your opinion? Should Muslim women be banned from wearing the burka in public places? Explain your answer.

Activities

Class discussion

After watching the BtN *Burka Ban* story, facilitate a discussion to encourage students to engage with the topic and learn more about Islam. Here are some possible discussion starters:

- What is Islam?
- What is the Koran?
- Do Muslim people all have the same beliefs?
- What are some festivals/traditions followed by Muslim people?
- What other religions do people follow in Australia?

What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their prior knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I know?	What do I want to know?	What have I learnt?	How will I find out?

Why do some Muslim women wear burkas?

There is a wide variety of clothing worn by some Muslim women around the world. Investigate the different types of clothing that some Muslim women wear.

- Describe the differences between the burka, niqab, hijab, chador and dupatta.
- Why do some Muslim women wear burkas? Consider cultural and religious reasons.



ABC News Explainer: Why do Muslim women wear a burka, niqab or hijab?
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-23/why-do-muslim-women-wear-a-burka-niqab-or-hijab/5761510>

CBBC Newsround: What's the difference between a hijab, niqab and burka?
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/24118241>

Rule making in our Parliament

Some senators want the burka banned from Parliament. A ban would mean that anyone wearing something covering their face wouldn't be allowed to sit in the public gallery. Others say the burka shouldn't be banned.

Print a copy of the transcript from the BtN *Burka Ban* story for students to read in pairs. Students will then answer the following questions and then discuss as a class.

- What is our Prime Minister's viewpoint on this issue?
- Why do some people think that the burka shouldn't be banned?
- Should Muslim women be allowed to wear burkas in public places? Explain your answer.

Further investigation

Did you know that there is a visitor's gallery at Parliament House where members of the public can view Parliament proceedings? Explore both the Senate and the House of Representatives to find out how they work. Answer some or all of the following questions.

- Locate and label where the following people sit (in both chambers) in Parliament: members of the government, the speaker, members of minor parties and independents, media and members of the public.



<http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/closer-look/australias-parliament-house/a-place-for-the-parliament.html>

- What rules must visitors follow when visiting the chamber galleries at Parliament House? Refer to the following website for a list of rules:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Planning_a_visit/Chamber_Public_Galleries
- How do we make rules and decisions about what happens in Parliament?
- Parliament House has been referred to as 'the people's building'. What do you think this means?

Take a look at our *Parliament House* story for more information on Australia's Parliament House. Learn more about the people, place, policies and systems of Australia's democratic process.
<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3830581.htm>

Cultural Diversity

Did you know that Australia's population is one of the most culturally diverse populations in the world?

- Facilitate a classroom discussion about cultural diversity. Ask students what they think cultural diversity is, and why it is important to them.
- As a class or in pairs ask students to investigate the cultural diversity within Australia and in their classroom. Students will represent their findings pictorially (e.g. a map, infographic, poster).

Teachers, check out BtN's *Racism* teacher resource for more activities on cultural diversity.

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/resources/teacher/episode/20130820-racism.pdf>

Related Research Links

CBBC Newsround – What's the difference between a hijab, niqab and burka?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/24118241>

ABC News – Explainer: Why do Muslim women wear a burka, niqab or hijab?

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-23/why-do-muslim-women-wear-a-burka-niqab-or-hijab/5761510>

ABC 3News - #Not in my name (see video link under 'Related Information')

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4027875.htm>

ABC News - #NotInMyName: Young Muslims speak out against Islamic State on Social Media

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-22/notinmyname-young-muslims-speak-out-against-islamic-state/5761392>

CBBC Newsround – What is Islam?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4180000/newsid_4188200/4188287.stm

BBC Newsround – Schools Religion: Islam

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/islam/>

ABC News – Burka-clad visitors to Parliament House to be made to sit in glass-enclosed galleries

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-02/parliament-burka-rules-introduced/5786132>

ABC Behind the News – Ramadan

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/v3/stories/s1743243.htm>