

# Moving Australia Day

## FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Hold a class discussion about the BtN story and record the main points.
2. When is Australia Day?
3. What does it mark the anniversary of?
4. Who was Captain Arthur Phillip?
5. How long had Aboriginal people been living in Australia before European settlement?
6. Why isn't Australia Day celebrated by many Aboriginal people?
7. Some people want to move the date of Australia Day. True or false?
8. What dates are being suggested?
9. What does Australia Day mean to you?
10. Should Australia Day be moved to a different date? Explain your answer. Vote in the Behind the News [online poll](#)

## ACTIVITY

Discuss the BtN *Moving Australia Day* story as a class. 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 knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I know?</i>	<i>What do I want to know?</i>	<i>What have I learnt?</i>	<i>How will I find out?</i>

Students will develop their own historical question/s for inquiry. Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines) and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- What happened on the 26th of January in 1788?
- For many people the 26th of January is a day of celebration, while for others, it is a day of sorrow or mourning. Investigate the history of Australia Day and why the day brings a mixture of feelings.

## KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate different viewpoints and perspectives on Australia Day.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

### HASS / Inquiry and skills – Year 4

Examine information to identify different points of view and distinguish facts from opinions ([ACHASSI077](#))

### HASS / History – Year 4

The diversity of Australia's first peoples and the long and continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country/Place (land, sea, waterways and skies) ([ACHASSK083](#))

The nature of contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and others, for example, the Macassans and the Europeans, and the effects of these interactions on, for example, people and environments ([ACHASSK086](#))

### English – Year 6

Plan, rehearse and deliver presentations, selecting and sequencing appropriate content and multimodal elements for defined audiences and purposes, making appropriate choices for modality and emphasis ([ACELY1710](#))

Use interaction skills, varying conventions of spoken interactions such as voice volume, tone, pitch and pace, according to group size, formality of interaction and needs and expertise of the audience ([ACELY1816](#))

## ACTIVITY

### Class discussion

In small groups, respond to the following questions and record your responses. Share your responses with the class.

- Why do we celebrate Australia Day?
- What does Australia Day mean to Aboriginal people?
- What do you do on Australia Day? Is it a special day for you? Why?

### Interview

Interview a range of people to find out the different attitudes and feelings people have towards Australia Day.

- Determine who you will interview, for example, family, friends or a teacher.
- Prepare for your interview by writing some questions that you will ask your interviewee. Write open-ended questions. Open-ended questions have no right or wrong answer and can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'.
- Find out how they celebrate Australia Day and what the day means to them.
- Ask if they think Australia Day should be moved to a different date and ask them to explain their answer.
- What have you learnt from this experience?

## ACTIVITY

### Videos

Watch these videos to learn more about first contacts between local Aboriginals and First Fleet settlers in the early days of colonisation.

The first clip explains Indigenous life before contact

<http://aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/first-australians-episode-1/clip1/>

- What did the video tell you about Indigenous life before European settlement?



The second clip gives an Indigenous perspective of the First Fleet

arriving <http://aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/first-australians-episode-1/clip2/>


- How is the landing of the First Fleet described in the video?
- What do the videos tell you about contact between the First Fleet settlers and Aboriginal people?
- Write a journal entry from the viewpoint of a local Aboriginal during the time when the First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay, Sydney. Present your journal entry as a podcast and share with the class.



## ACTIVITY

### Visual literacy – historical painting

Examine this historical painting as a class and hold a class discussion about what they see and what they think is happening. Individually students will then respond to the following questions.

Painting by William Bradley	
 <p>Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales</p>	<p>Caption: Taking of Colbee &amp; Benalon. 25 Novr 1789</p> <p>The taking of Colbee and Benalon, 25 Novr 1789. Lieutenant William Bradley, based on his experience kidnapping the two men on orders from Governor Phillip. Bradley later wrote: 'it was by far the most unpleasant service I was ever ordered to execute.'</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for full size image</p>
Observe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you see in this image? Describe the setting and who is in the image. Are there details you can't identify?</li> </ul>
Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think is happening?</li> <li>• What do you think about what is happening in this image?</li> </ul>
Query	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What might have happened just before and just after the scene in the picture?</li> <li>• What does this image tell you about contacts between local Indigenous people and First Fleet settlers?</li> <li>• What questions do you have about what you see in this image?</li> </ul>

### Visual literacy – Doodle4Google

For Google's 2015 [Doodle 4 Google](#) competition, they asked Aussie kids to draw a doodle based on the theme "If I could travel back in time I would...". The winning doodle looked at the theme of the stolen generation, and was hosted on Google Australia's homepage on Australia Day.

- Students will travel back in time to 1788, when the First Fleet arrived in what is now Sydney harbour and first contacts were made with the local Aboriginal people. What would you find when you got there? What would you like to discuss with the people you meet?
- Students will create their own Doodle4Google based on the theme "If I could travel back in time to 1788 I would...". Write a supporting statement which explains your image.



**2015 Doodle4Google, National Winner**  
*Stolen Dreamtime*, Ineka Voigt, Canberra High School, ACT  
[weblink](#)



## ACTIVITY

### Classroom debate

Prepare for your class debate using the following statement.

*Australia Day should be moved to a different date*

Students will work in small groups to brainstorm ideas for both the affirmative and negative and record their ideas on a piece of A3 paper. Students will choose the strongest points from their list of ideas to share with the class.

Consider running your own class debate on a topic. Refer to [Debating SA's resources](#) for worksheets, checklists and fact sheets on writing speeches and running class debates.

### Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- Did my opinion change?
- What did you learn from this activity?



## USEFUL WEBSITES

Behind the News – Australia Day

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s1803207.htm>

Behind the News – First Fleet

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3934600.htm>

Behind the News – Flag Debate

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3681106.htm>

Behind the News – Flag Day

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4081135.htm>



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