

Home Tutor Scheme

Lesson Plan

Topic: AUSTRALIA AND POLITICS



everyone's family

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Many of our students are Australian citizens or are planning to apply for Australian citizenship. For this reason it is important that they have the opportunity to be educated about Australian politics to ensure they are making an educated & valid vote at election time. Voting is a responsibility and a privilege that all our eligible students should take seriously. To ensure that all our students benefit from this lesson plan, the focus is on Australian culture in general. It is with no disrespect that I have left out information on Australian ANZAC heroes and diggers. We dedicated a whole lesson plan to ANZAC day (we will re-send this before ANZAC day each year).

Warm up questions

Beginners:

When did you arrive in Australia?

Why did you come to Australia?

What did you know about Australia before you came?

Who did you come to Australia with?

What do you like about the suburb you live in?

Did you choose to live in that area, why?

Do you have plans to become an Australian citizen? If yes, why?

Can you list all the Australian cities?

Have you been outside Sydney?

What is the capital city of Australia? Have you been there?

Intermediate – Advanced:

Was the migration process difficult or easy for you when you came to Australia?

What are Australia's Indigenous people called? What do you know about them?

What do you know about Australia's history?

Vocabulary

Population	Migrants	Outback	Attraction
State	National anthem	Island	Coat of Arms
Territory	Indigenous	Country	Ocean
City	Flag	Passport	Citizen

Facts about Australia

Australia is the world's largest island.

Capital: Canberra

Prime Minister: Kevin Rudd

National Language: English

National Anthem: Advance Australia Fair

Indigenous Peoples: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Population: 21 million

Indigenous: 483, 000 (2.3% of population)

Birthplace: 22% of the population born overseas

Religions: Christianity 63.9%, Buddhism 2.1%, Islam 1.7%, Hinduism 0.7%, Judaism 0.4%

Australian cities and attractions

States & Territories: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory

City: Brisbane, Perth, Hobart, Sydney, Darwin, Victoria, Canberra, Adelaide

Attractions: Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, Opera House, 12 apostles, Wilderness, Parliament House, Flinders Ranges, Margaret River

Complete the table:

State	City	Attraction
<i>eg. Western Australia</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Margaret River</i>

Reading Comprehension

Australia is the world's largest island, but also the smallest continent. It is the sixth largest nation on earth. Australia is made up of six states and two territories. The landscape in Australia varies dramatically from tropical rainforests, to deserts, and cool temperate forests to snow covered mountains.

Indigenous Australians

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders made up all the people of Australia before the arrival of European settlers in 1788. They formed many groups with their lifestyle, religious and cultural traditions reflecting a deep connection with the land. They spoke one or more of hundreds of languages. Now, they make up only a small part of the total number of Australians. They continue to live in all places including cities, towns, the coast, rural areas and the outback. There is no single culture but a mixture of current day and traditional thoughts, ways and practices.

Migration to Australia

On 26 January 1788, the First Fleet arrived in Port Jackson now called Sydney. We commemorate the date of that first landing as Australia Day, which is our national day. Migrants arriving with and after the First Fleet were mainly English convicts and free settlers. They included Italians, Greeks, Malays and people from other parts of Europe. The gold rushes attracted a large number of people from Britain, Ireland, Germany and China. Afghans also came at this time, bringing camels with them for inland exploration. Early Japanese settlers started the pearling industry in Australia.

Post World War II Migration

Large-scale migration began after World War II and it is continuing today. The resettlement of displaced persons and refugees saw migrants come from Britain, many parts of Europe and the Middle East. After the abolition of the White Australia policy, migrants also came from many parts of Asia. Patterns that are more recent see more people coming from Africa. People from around 200 countries have come to live here and about a quarter of us were born overseas. We speak more than 200 languages with English the national language. We are encouraged to read and speak English. English is the main language used in schools; although they do teach other languages and some schools have bilingual programs.

Comprehension Questions:

Beginners:

Select the true/ false answer to the following questions

	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
1. Australia is the world's smallest continent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Indigenous Australians all spoke the same language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Indigenous Australians live in rural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Sydney used to be called Port Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Afghans brought donkeys with them for exploration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Large-scale migration began after World War I	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. A quarter of Australians were born overseas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. English is the main language used in schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Intermediate/ Advanced

How much of this information did you know before reading it above?

What kind of landscapes do we have in Australia?

Who was living in Australia before the First Fleet arrived?

When is Australia Day?

What happened after World War II?

Who began arriving after the white Australia policy was abolished? Do you know what the white Australia policy was?

What does bilingual mean?

Common Australian word usage

Much common word usage or 'slang' may seem strange to people new to Australia. Slang words start from many different sources. Some words are shortened versions of longer words. See if your student can tell you the meaning before they read the explanation.

Bring a plate

When you are invited to a party and asked to 'bring a plate', this means to bring a dish of food to share with your host and other guests. Take the food to the party in any type of dish, not just a plate, and it is usually ready to serve. This is common for communal gatherings such as for school, work or a club. If you are unsure what to bring, you can ask the host.

BYO

When an invitation to a party says 'BYO', this means 'bring your own' drink. If you do not drink alcohol, it is acceptable to bring juice, soft drink or soda, or water. Some restaurants are BYO. You can bring your own wine to these, although there is usually a charge for providing and cleaning glasses called 'corkage'.

Arvo

This is short for afternoon. 'Drop by this arvo,' means please come and visit this afternoon.

Fortnight

This term describes a two weeks period.

Barbeque, BBQ, barbie

Outdoor cooking, usually of meat over a grill or hotplate using gas or coals. The host serves the meat with salads and bread rolls. It is common for a guest, when invited to a BBQ, to ask if they should bring anything.

Snag

The raw type sausages usually cooked at a BBQ. They can be made of pork, beef or chicken.

Chook

The term chook means a chicken, usually a hen.

Cuppa

A cup of tea or coffee 'Drop by this arvo for a cuppa' means please come and visit this afternoon for a cup of tea or coffee.

Loo or dunny

These are slang terms for toilet. If you are a guest in someone's house for the first time, it is usually polite to ask permission to use his or her toilet. 'May I use your toilet please?' Some people ask, 'Where's the loo?'

Fair dinkum

Honest, the truth. 'Fair dinkum?' when used as a question means, 'is it really true?'

To be crook

To be sick or ill.

Flat out

Busy.

Shout

To buy someone a drink. At a bar or a pub when a group of friends meet, it is usual for each person to 'shout a round', meaning buy everybody a drink. Each person takes a turn at buying a 'round'. It is also acceptable to say that you do not drink (alcohol) by saying that you are a 'teetotaler'. This also means you are not obliged to shout.

Bloke

A man. Sometimes if you ask for help, you may get an answer to 'see that bloke over there'.

How ya goin ?

'How are you going?' means how are you, or how do you do? It does not mean what form of transport are you taking. Sometimes it can sound like 'ow-ya-goin-mate'.

(Resource from The Department of Immigration and Citizenship website)

Fill in the blanks**Conversation 1**

Hi Peter, _____? Would you and your wife like to come around for a _____ next weekend? We would like you to _____, maybe just some _____ or something else to put on the BBQ.

Conversation 2

Hi Mum, _____? Would you like to come around this _____ for a _____? I haven't seen you for about a _____, I'm sorry, I've just been _____.

Australian Politics

Warm-up questions

What name do we give to Australia's head of government? What is the name of that person at present?

Do you know about the coming election?

Are you required to vote?

Have you voted in an election before?

Do you think having the right to vote is important?

Who are Australia's main political parties?

Australia has 3 levels of Government. What are they?

What are some of the most important election issues for you?

Political Vocabulary

Politics	Voting	Prime Minister	Senate
House of Reps.	Political Party	Parliament	Election
Opposition	Federal	State	Council
Democracy	Republic	Monarchy	Campaign

Political Information

Australia is a parliamentary democracy. This means that Australians participate in how the country is run and how Australian society is represented.

The Australian constitution sets out the basic rules for the government of Australia.

The Prime Minister is the head of government.

Queen Elizabeth II is Australia's constitutional head of State, represented through the Governor General.

Australia has 3 levels of government: Federal, State and Local (Councils).

The Australian **Federal** Government is responsible for national laws including:

- taxation
- the economy
- immigration and citizenship
- employment
- education
- health
- telecommunications
- social security
- defence forces
- trade
- relations with other countries (foreign affairs)

The **State** and Territory governments are responsible for carrying out laws in relation to:

- hospitals
- schools
- railways
- roads
- forestry
- police

Local governments (or councils) are responsible for local, town or city matters including:

- local environmental issues
- street signs & traffic controls
- parks, playgrounds, swimming pools & sports playgrounds
- food inspection
- noise control
- rubbish collection
- building permits
- local roads, bridges and walkways

If you are over 18 and an Australian citizen it is compulsory to vote in federal, state and local elections. Voting is by secret ballot.

A political party is a group of people who share similar ideas and philosophies about how a country should be managed.

Ministers are selected by the Prime Minister to become the key decision making body of the government known as the Cabinet.

There are two houses of parliament: The House of Representatives and The Senate.

The House of Representatives (The 'Lower' House) has 150 members who each represent voters living in a particular area (electorate). In an election you vote for the person you want to represent your electorate in the House of Representatives. The leader of the political party that wins the majority of seats in the House of Representatives becomes the Prime Minister.

The Senate (The 'Upper' House) has 76 senators with equal representatives from each State and Territory. Senator's debate current issues, consider proposed new laws (bills), reports and papers presented by ministers. The Senate primarily functions as the house of review and can reject any bill proposed by the Lower House after review and debate. The Senate therefore works as a powerful check on the government of the day. In an election you vote for the party you would like to represent you in the Senate.

Citizenship

The best source of up-to-date information regarding citizenship is on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website: <http://www.citizenship.gov.au/>

This site provides information about the Australian citizenship test such as:

- making a booking for the test
- preparing for the test
- accessing the test resource book, *Becoming an Australian Citizen*
- what to do after the test.

The test is an important part of ensuring that migrants have the capacity to fully participate in the Australian community as citizens and maximise the opportunities available to them in Australia. It promotes social cohesion and successful integration into the community.

The test:

- is in English
- consists of 20 multiple choice questions
- includes three mandatory questions based on the responsibilities of Australian citizenship
- has a pass mark of 60 per cent including correctly answering all three mandatory questions.

There will not be a separate English language test. You will need a basic understanding of English to pass the test. All the information you need to pass the test is in the test resource book *Becoming an Australian Citizen*.