

EXPLORING CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

**THROUGH A VISIT TO
THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
CANBERRA**

UPPER SECONDARY

Student Resource Book

EXPLORING CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP **Through a Visit to the National Capital, Canberra**

Upper Secondary Student Resource Book

A classroom resource to support the PACER program

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DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL



A site study





DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL



Themes or aspects of Australian Commonwealth parliamentary democracy

The National Capital, Canberra, was established to be the place where the Commonwealth Parliament sits.

This means that it is a place that tells us about that parliament — and also its place in our overall democratic system.

Your aim in this unit is to start thinking critically about what this visit might tell you about our system of parliamentary democracy, and to develop a list of aspects to look for when you are there.

1 Below are explanations of some important aspects of our parliamentary democracy, and some sites or displays that you will see in Canberra in some major institutions.

Read the first sentence of each, then choose which explanation provides the elaboration of that sentence. Draw a line to link the two.

1 Australia has a **bicameral legislature**.

This means that there are certain standards of behaviour that are expected, and some that are praised.

2 Australia has a system of **representative democracy**.

This means that some of our political institutions and behaviour have been modelled on or influenced by Australia's British heritage.

3 Australia has a system of **responsible government**.

This means that the parliament is elected by the enfranchised citizens (those citizens who qualify to vote). There are two different electoral systems, one for the House of Representatives and one for the Senate.

4 Australia has a system of **separation of powers** of the legislature (parliament), the executive (administration of the laws) and the judiciary (courts).

This means both that the elected representatives are responsible ultimately to the electors, and also that the government of the day is responsible to the parliament — and must have the confidence of the parliament, expressed through having control of a majority vote.

5 Australia has a **federal system** in which the powers of the Commonwealth Parliament are defined in the Australian Constitution.

This means that no branch should interfere with the working of the others. Each has a separate and independent role.

6 Australians have **civic rights and responsibilities**, and civic ideals and standards.

This means that areas of legislative jurisdiction are divided between the Commonwealth Parliament and the state parliaments.

7 Australia has **strong links and traditions associated with Britain**.

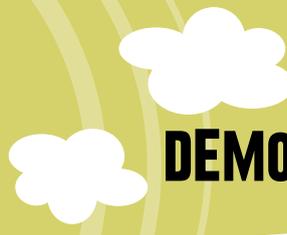
This means that there are two Houses, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

- 2** Now look at this list of places and aspects that you might see during your excursion to the National Capital. Mark which of the seven themes above might be relevant to each place. For example, the Australian Commonwealth parliamentary system is bicameral – there are two Houses. You would expect to see and find out more about that at both Parliament House and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. There may also be others which relate to the seven themes that you would also expect to learn something about at the two parliament buildings.

Place or feature of the National Capital	Bicameral government	Representative Democracy	Responsible government	Separation of powers	Federal system	Civic rights & responsibilities	British traditions
Old Parliament House , where the Commonwealth Parliament met between 1927 and 1988.							
Parliament House , where the Commonwealth Parliament has met since 1988.							
Australian War Memorial , which includes many displays of individual behaviour during war and peacekeeping, as well as government activity such as the conscription referenda of 1916 and 1917.							
National Electoral Education Centre , which explores Australia's voting systems.							
High Court , in which decisions are made about the legality of legislation and actions under the Australian Constitution.							
Government Department buildings , where public servants administer government laws and policies.							
Reconciliation Place , which has a series of monuments to aspects of Indigenous Australians' lives.							

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL



Place or feature of the National Capital	Bicameral government	Representative Democracy	Responsible government	Separation of powers	Federal system	Civic rights & responsibilities	British traditions
Aboriginal Tent Embassy , which is a protest site that was first established outside Old Parliament House on Australia Day 1972, and has existed continuously since 1992.							
Magna Carta Monument , which commemorates the significance of the 1297 document in the development of Australia's democracy.							
Industry Representative offices , which are the centres for various lobby groups seeking to influence government policies.							
Press galleries , in each of the parliament buildings, where journalists from a variety of media observe the working of parliament.							
ACT Parliament , which is the legislative body for the ACT.							
King George V Statue , outside the Old Parliament House. George V had, as the Duke of Cornwall and York, opened the first Commonwealth Parliament in Melbourne in 1901.							



DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

What does the National Capital tell you about these themes?

You now have an idea about how a range of places that you will visit during your excursion will be relevant to a variety of aspects of the Australian democratic system.

Form into small groups to research in depth at least one each of these seven themes, using the questions and ideas that follow. By reporting the findings of your group on its special research area the whole class will be able to cover all areas.

Then explore how your theme or themes are represented in the particular places you visit during your excursion to the National Capital.

All class members should then report on their area of research after the excursion, and illustrate how that particular theme can be seen in the National Capital. In doing so you should report on these four questions:

- What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- Would you support any changes to it?
- How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?



Here are good starting points for researching each of the issues that follow. These will point you in particular directions for further specialised references.

- www.aph.gov.au/education/index.htm
- <http://democratic.audit.anu.edu.au>
- <http://australianpolitics.com>

Search online encyclopaedias and the particular topic.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL**RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER:
Australia has a bicameral legislature**

We have two Houses of Commonwealth Parliament — the House of Representatives where the government is formed from the majority party or grouping of parties, and the Senate. The two Houses have equal powers, except that only the House of Representatives can introduce money bills. Increasingly the Senate has been developing as a house of review, with Senate committees examining issues and providing public reports on them.

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

- Governments are formed after the people have voted for the legislative program they prefer, and that they expect to be implemented. Should the Senate be able to put a check or brake on the implementation of those policies?
- The idea of the Senate as a review house tends to work best when the Government does not also control the Senate. Is the Senate still relevant when the Government does control both chambers?
- Do we really need two Houses? Queensland, ACT and NT only have one. Do they operate as successful democracies?
- The origin of the Senate was as the states' house to protect the interests of the smaller states against the power of New South Wales and Victoria. Is this still an important role of the Senate? Or has the influence of parties meant that voting is generally along party lines, rather than state lines?
- The Speaker in the House of Representatives, and the President in the Senate, are vital for the Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament to work effectively. They have the responsibility of ensuring that the parliament operates in a fair and effective way. In practice the Speaker is the elected nominee of the Government. Since the Government does not always have a majority in the Senate the President may or may not be from the Government. Can the Speaker/President be fair and effective if they are still members of a political party? Some people have suggested that when elected, the Speaker ought to withdraw from the party system, and even that the Speaker shouldn't be opposed in his or her electorate. Comment on these suggestions.

If possible you should focus on specific incidents from the past or that are currently in the news.

As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

Your visit to Parliament House and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will be particularly relevant to this theme.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL**RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER:****Australia has a system of representative democracy**

Our system of representative democracy requires that we elect our representatives in the most effective, fair and efficient way.

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

- Elections are organised by the independent Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). How does the AEC ensure that elections are fair, free and orderly?
- Elections are usually held for both the House of Representatives and half the Senate at the same time. Members of the House of Representatives and senators representing the territories stand for election approximately every three years. Senators representing states are elected for six years. This means that half of the state senators were elected at the previous election, when the voters' attitudes might have been quite different. What are the strengths and weaknesses of having half-Senate elections?
- Under our present system elections can be held at any time, after a statutory minimum period, as desired by the Prime Minister and subject to the Governor-General's agreement. Should we have fixed terms as some countries do? Is a three year term the right length?
- House of Representatives electorates within each state have similar numbers of voters. This ensures that each voter has a relatively equal vote. It also means that some electorates are geographically large. Does this matter?
- To be elected to the House of Representatives a candidate must receive more than 50% of the vote in their electoral division. To be elected to the Senate a candidate must receive a quota, a set proportion of the vote from across a whole state. This means that minority groups have a much greater chance of their winning seats in the Senate than in the House of Representatives. How does this work? Are there other electoral systems used internationally that you think would be fairer?
- We have a preferential voting system for Commonwealth House of Representatives elections. Voters must complete preferences for all candidates. What are the benefits of this system over other systems?
- Australia has had a system of compulsory voting since 1924. Supporters say that it truly reflects the will of the people and ensures that people are part of the process of elections. Opponents argue that it gives equal weight to the uninterested as to the interested in choosing a government. Political parties get public money for each vote they receive, so non-compulsory voting would harm them. They may also have to campaign much harder to get people involved and active if people did not have to vote. However, it can be argued that with voluntary voting an active minority can have an excessive influence and that the government that is created does not truly reflect the will of the people. Compulsory voting may also change a right into a responsibility. Do you think voting should be compulsory or voluntary? What are the arguments to support your opinion?
- Australia currently uses manual paper based voting in Commonwealth Government elections. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of adopting computerised voting and online democracy.
 - Could we vote from home?
 - Would it allow us to vote directly on laws (that is, participatory democracy)?

If possible you should focus on specific incidents that are from the past or currently in the news.

As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

Your visit to Parliament House, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and the National Electoral Education Centre will be particularly relevant to this theme.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL**RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER:
Australia has a system of responsible government**

Responsible government involves accountability — that people take responsibility for their actions as members of parliament, and especially as ministers.

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

- Incoming governments sometimes create a set of rules of proper behaviour for ministers. These are standards of behaviour that involve acceptance of responsibility for all actions that are carried out in the minister's area of responsibility. Examine the most current of these standards and decide if it is fair, reasonable and responsible.
- Ministers receive advice from their departments. Most of those who work in departments are public servants. Their advice is meant to be 'without fear or favour' — that is, to give honest and informed advice on the impact and practicability of proposed policies that is given for the good of the nation, regardless of whether it agrees with the minister's opinions or not. (Of course, the minister does not have to accept this advice.) Research how policy advice is delivered to governments.
- Every minister also has advisers. These are people who are not departmental public servants, but are accountable to the minister personally. Their job is to support their minister. There is a tradition that ministerial staff do not appear before parliamentary committees that are investigating aspects of policy. The argument in favour of this is that advisers have to be free to offer advice without it being subject to external scrutiny. The argument against this is that advisers often do more than advise, that they actually get policy carried out by the department, yet are not accountable for their actions. (However, a minister is always responsible for actions carried out in his or her name which is why a minister is sometimes forced to resign from their ministerial role.) What do you think should be the position of these advisers? Research the role of ministerial advisers in our system of responsible government.

If possible you should focus on specific incidents that are from the past or currently in the news.

As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

Your visit to Parliament House and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will be particularly relevant to this theme.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL**RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER:
Australia has a system of separation of powers**

The system of separation, or independence, of the three arms of government is supposed to ensure the greatest protection of the democratic system.

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

- Some critics believe that there has been a growth of executive power over the legislature in Australia — basically, that the party in government (the legislature) is dominated by the ministers in Cabinet (the executive). This is supposed to have undermined the role of the parliament in carefully debating and scrutinising legislation. Others argue that this is not the case and that the parliamentary system still allows ample debate and scrutiny of legislation by the opposition. Research to see whether or not you agree that the executive is developing dominance in this way and, if so, whether it is a desirable or undesirable thing.
- The main judicial element of the Commonwealth is the High Court. The High Court hears the most important cases — including occasionally those that involve an interpretation of the Constitution. More frequently, however, the Court hears cases that involve decisions on how a piece of legislation operates. The decisions become precedent, so every time in the future that the same issue arises we know that it has to be decided in the same way. But how do the High Court judges make their decisions? Do they apply the words of an Act literally (an approach that is generally known as ‘conservative’ or ‘black law’) or do they interpret them in a way that seems to suit the current social attitudes and values (an approach that is generally known as ‘activist’)? The issue can be seen in this extract from a review of a recent book on the High Court:

One Victorian . . . judge said he did not believe the country could move forward unless the High Court was prepared to take risks and that it took parliaments a hell of a long time to make laws reflecting community feeling. . . .

The [alternative] argument is that laws are best made by those most directly responsible to the public through regular elections. As one judge [said], in seeking to override the parliamentary process on lawmaking, the judiciary may not be as fully informed about the process and public opinion as they would like to think they are. It is indeed, as another judge said, dangerous for judges to arrogate to themselves the function of identifying majority or community standards.

(www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22079286-23069,00.html)

Research and report on the role you think the High Court should take: conservative or activist?

If possible you should focus on specific incidents from the past or that are currently in the news.

As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

Your visit to Parliament House and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will be particularly relevant to this theme. You might also be able to visit the High Court when you are in Canberra.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER: Australia has a federal system

When the Australian Constitution was brought into effect in 1901 it provided a balance between state and Commonwealth powers. Society has changed greatly since 1901 and the Commonwealth Government has grown in power and influence. Does the Constitution still provide a realistic and effective division of powers and responsibility between the Commonwealth and the states?

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

- The Constitution was created for the world of 1901. There have been huge economic, social and cultural changes in Australia since then. For example, the world of 1901 did not think it necessary to have national control of the Murray River. Many in today's world now think that it is essential. The world of 1901 did not consider it necessary to have national policies for the environment. We now have some, such as Commonwealth control of World Heritage sites, but these have come through broad interpretation of the Constitution. Should the Constitution be revised to explicitly give new areas of power to the Commonwealth, or is the system, which allows changes to occur through court interpretations of the powers, working well?
- Is the Constitution too hard to change? It requires a process that involves a Bill passed by both Houses of parliament, followed by a popular vote in which an overall majority of voters in Australia must approve the change, as well as a majority of states (at least four out of six). Only 8 of 44 proposed referenda have been approved. Or is this lack of change a good thing — showing that the benefits of a proposed change really have to be proven to the people for them to accept it?
- The Australian Constitution guarantees very few rights to the people: there is no right to free speech, to freedom of assembly or even to vote! Most of what people expect to be rights exercisable in a democracy are in fact only guaranteed by Acts of Parliament and these can be changed. Some people believe that Australia needs a Bill of Rights which can either be part of the Constitution or which can be an Act of Parliament, but one that has built-in protection against arbitrary repeal or change. Research this issue, looking in particular at the ACT Bill of Rights (2005) and the Victorian Bill of Rights (2008).

If possible you should focus on specific incidents from the past or that are currently in the news.

As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

Your visit to Parliament House and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will be particularly relevant to this theme.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER:

Australians have civic rights and responsibilities, and civic ideals and standards

A democracy involves both rights and responsibilities for its citizens. It also involves having standards of behaviour which its citizens are expected to meet. Some of these civic standards are explicit and some of them reflect a nation's culture. What are Australia's core civics values and can we see them on display in the National Capital?

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

- One aspect of civic behaviour involves members of parliament. Students visiting parliament at Question Time often comment on the combative behaviour of the members. The members defend this as 'theatre' and argue that it is more important to be able to speak openly and draw people's attention to possible problems with the government rather than to have to speak politely. They also point out that most of parliament's work is conducted in an orderly and constructive way in debates and in committees. Is the 'theatre' of Question Time valuable or is it destructive of the esteem in which people hold politics and politicians?
- Our civic values are often reflected in public statements. What does it tell us when we see a statue to royalty inside and outside the Old Parliament House and at Parliament House? What does it tell us when we see a large Indigenous mosaic outside the Parliament House? What does it tell us when we see several memorials to Indigenous people in Reconciliation Place? What message about Australia's relations with Indigenous people do these present to the viewer? What does it tell us when we see memorials to the Magna Carta, to the United States, to Robert Burns, to Winston Churchill?

Whose voice is heard? Whose voice is not heard? Why would the Australian War Memorial have statues outside to Simpson and Weary Dunlop, but not to the soldier Albert Jacka, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Gallipoli? Are there memorials to women? To rebels? To ordinary people? If not, why not?

Is it only powerful and influential public leaders who can set a society's public statements? What are some other forms of public art which make political statements? Do a society's public statements reflect current beliefs, attitudes and values, or are they rather reminders of the past rather than the present?

- Can you think of any new memorials that could be added to the National Capital, to reflect changing attitudes and values? If so, what would be appropriate to display publicly in this way as a statement about civic values?
- Who is responsible for a society's public statements? Who gets to say what will be publicly and officially presented as a civic value? Is it the role of the government? Or the parliament? Or a special body? Should the public be able to decide?

If possible you should focus on specific incidents from the past or that are currently in the news.

As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

Your visit to Parliament House, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial will be particularly relevant to this theme. You should also try to visit public memorials such as those on Anzac Parade and in the Parliamentary Triangle.

DEMOCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

RESEARCHING A THEME FURTHER:

Australia has strong links and traditions associated with Britain

People have had political, social, cultural and economic systems in Australia for over 40,000 years. Parliamentary democracy has been here for less than 200 years. Our system of parliament has strong links with the British system of democracy. Britain has been a major (but not the only) influence on our civic and citizenship systems and values and we can see evidence of this in many places and institutions.

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- 1 What are the strengths and benefits of this aspect of our democracy?
- 2 What are its limitations or weaknesses?
- 3 Would you support any changes?
- 4 How can we see this aspect of our democracy represented in the National Capital?

To answer these questions some aspects to consider and research further are:

Our connections to Britain are evident in many places and institutions. Identify and comment on:

- Royal symbols, traditions and procedures associated with the British Parliament
- Statues of British people who have had an influence on Australian history and culture — John Simpson Kirkpatrick, British monarchs, Robert Burns, Winston Churchill
- Memorials to British democratic traditions — especially Magna Carta
- Australian foreign policy and military commitments to Britain, in particular noting how this has changed over time
- Australian symbols such as the national flag and versions of the coat of arms
- Citizenship in Australia which was in fact British citizenship from 1901 until 1948, with the first Australian citizenship ceremony being held in 1949. (Visit www.citizenship.gov.au for more information.)

If possible you should focus on specific incidents from the past or that are currently in the news.

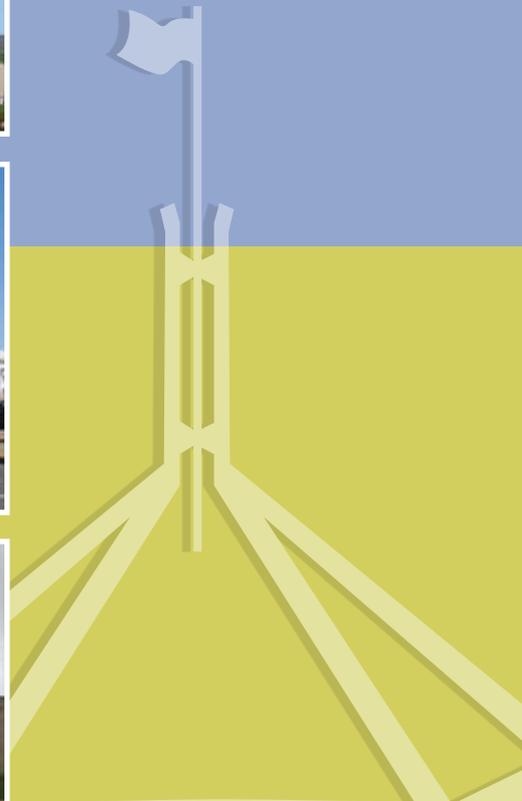
As you visit various sites during your excursion to the National Capital use the Student Journal to record ways in which this aspect of our democracy can be seen.

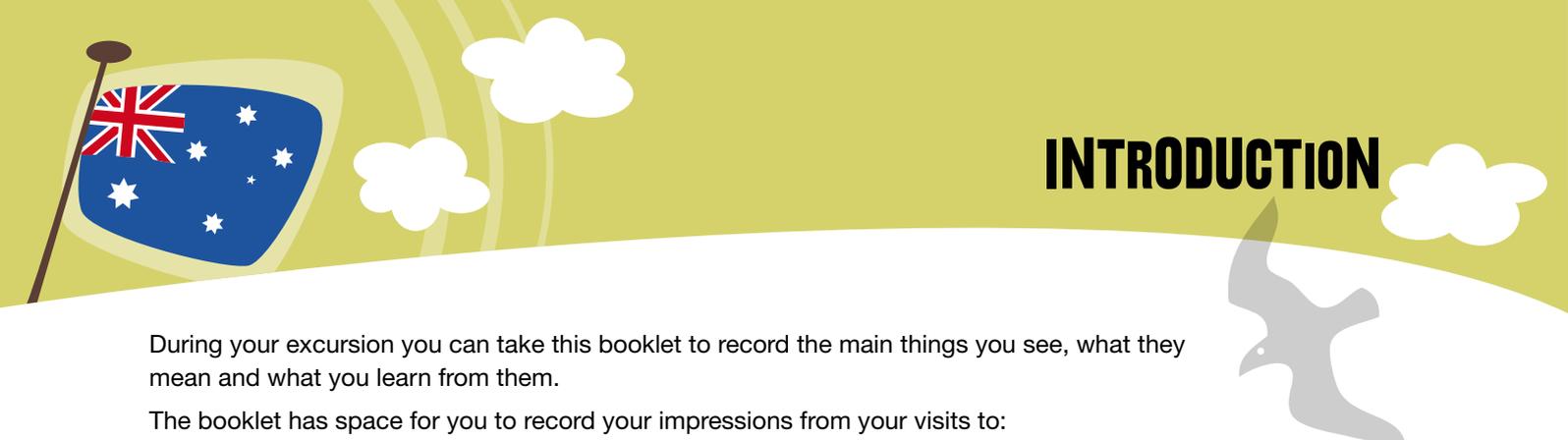
Your visit to Parliament House, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial will be particularly relevant to this theme.

You will find several documents including the Statute of Westminster Adoption Act and the Australia Act on display in the National Archives of Australia Federation Gallery.



MY EXCURSION TO CANBERRA THE NATIONAL CAPITAL





INTRODUCTION

During your excursion you can take this booklet to record the main things you see, what they mean and what you learn from them.

The booklet has space for you to record your impressions from your visits to:

- the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (but note that you will not be able to use this booklet in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House because it is a heritage building.)
- the Australian War Memorial
- Parliament House
- the National Electoral Education Centre
- the Magna Carta Memorial
- other places.

At each place you should particularly consider the theme you have researched in depth in preparation for this excursion. You may also have the opportunity to consider some of the other themes raised.

The last page of the souvenir booklet will remind you about some of the things that you might need to do back in class after your excursion.

Enjoy your visit!



MY EXCURSION TO CANBERRA THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Name

Class

Electorate

Dates

Highlight which of these themes are the focus of your excursion:

- 1** Australia has a **bicameral legislature**.
- 2** Australia has a system of **representative democracy**.
- 3** Australia has a system of **responsible government**.
- 4** Australia has a system of **separation of powers** of the legislature (parliament), the executive (administration of the laws) and the judiciary (courts).
- 5** Australia has a **federal system** in which the powers of the Commonwealth Parliament are defined in the Australian Constitution.
- 6** Australians have **civic rights and responsibilities**, and civic ideals and standards.
- 7** Australia has **strong links and traditions associated with Britain**.



MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Make your own exhibition

1. My theme _____
2. Find 3-6 objects or images related to the theme, draw or paste a photograph below.
3. Write a label for each object or image chosen.
4. Make sure you link each object to the theme you have chosen.
5. You may find images and information on our website www.moad.gov.au

Object / Image chosen	Object label



MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Exhibition Theme _____

Object / Image chosen	Object label



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



Some aspects of the Australian War Memorial that are relevant to my theme/s are:

This is . . .	It tells me . . .
<p>(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in the Australian War Memorial in these spaces.)</p>	



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



Some other special things at the Australian War Memorial relevant to other themes are:

Object or place	It tells me . . .
<p>(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in the Australian War Memorial in these spaces.)</p>	Theme:
	Theme:
	Theme:



PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Some aspects of Parliament House that are relevant to my theme/s are:

This is . . .	It tells me . . .
(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in Parliament House in these spaces.)	



PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Some other special things at Parliament House relevant to other themes are:

Object or place	It tells me . . .
(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in Parliament House in these spaces.)	Theme:
	Theme:
	Theme:



NATIONAL ELECTORAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Some aspects of the National Electoral Education Centre that are relevant to my theme/s are:

This is . . .	It tells me . . .
<p>(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in the National Electoral Education Centre in these spaces.)</p>	



MAGNA CARTA MEMORIAL

Observing and Recording

Your visit here will probably be brief. Do not try to answer the following questions in detail. Try to observe as much as possible, and take short notes to answers. You will be able to expand on your answers later.

- 1 What are your first impressions of this memorial?
- 2 What do you think are its meanings or messages?
- 3 List the key elements of the memorial.
- 4 What do you think is the purpose or role of each element?
- 5 Identify any symbolism in the memorial. This might be in:
 - words
 - images
 - materials used
 - location
 - design features
 - dates associated with it.
- 6 What is the memorial telling you about Magna Carta?

Analysing and Reflecting

Canberra has the Magna Carta memorial, and also a rare copy of the document on display in Parliament House. Why do we consider Magna Carta to be important as part of our political and civic heritage? Read the additional material on the Magna Carta memorial provided in the Teacher's Manual and answer these questions.

- 1 What is 'Magna Carta'?
- 2 Why was it important at the time of its creation? What did it do?
- 3 How did its meaning or importance change over time?
- 4 Sir Gerard Brennan calls it a 'myth'. What do you think that means?
- 5 Is Magna Carta still relevant to Australia? Explain your ideas.
- 6 How does Magna Carta illustrate Australia's constitutional and legal links to the British tradition?
- 7 How does it illustrate our links to a tradition of parliamentary democracy?

Concluding

- 8 What does Magna Carta mean to you today as part of Australia's civic life?





OTHER CANBERRA PLACES

Some aspects of other places in Canberra that are relevant to my theme/s are:



This is . . .	It tells me . . .
<p>(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in other Canberra places in these spaces.)</p>	



OTHER CANBERRA PLACES

Some other special things at other sites in Canberra relevant to other themes are:

Object or place	This tells me that . . .
(Place your own sketch or photograph of special places or objects in these spaces.)	Theme:
	Theme:
	Theme:



After your excursion to Canberra . . .

- Make sure you complete your tour booklet. You might have some more photos or sketches that you want to add to it.
- Complete your research on your theme/s and decide how to describe what the National Capital tells you about the theme/s.

