

The Australian Curriculum History





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Year 6

Australia as a nation

The Year 6 curriculum moves from colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time. Students understand the significance of Australia’s British heritage, the Westminster system, and other models that influenced the development of Australia’s system of government. Students learn about the way of life of people who migrated to Australia and their contributions to Australia’s economic and social development.

The content provides opportunities to develop historical understanding through key concepts including **sources, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance**.

These concepts may be investigated within a particular historical context to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries.

The history content at this year level involves two strands: *Historical Knowledge and Understanding* and *Historical Skills*. These strands are interrelated and should be taught in an integrated way; they may be integrated across learning areas and in ways that are appropriate to specific local contexts. The order and detail in which they are taught are programming decisions.

A framework for developing students’ historical knowledge, understanding and skills is provided by **inquiry questions** through the use and interpretation of sources. The key inquiry questions at this year level are:

- Why and how did Australia become a nation?
- How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?
- Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?
- What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?

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)



Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders, migrants, women, and children. (ACHHK114)



Historical Skills

Chronology, terms and concepts

Sequence historical people and events. (ACHHS117)



Use historical terms and concepts (ACHHS118)



Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia (including from ONE Asian country) and the reasons they migrated, such as World War II and Australian migration programs since the war. (ACHHK115)



The contribution of individuals and groups, including Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders and migrants, to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science, the arts, sport. (ACHHK116)



Historical questions and research

Identify questions to inform an historical inquiry (ACHHS119)



Identify and locate a range of relevant sources (ACHHS120)



Analysis and use of sources

Locate information related to inquiry questions in a range of sources. (ACHHS121)



Compare information from a range of sources. (ACHHS122)



Perspectives and interpretations

Identify points of view in the past and present (ACHHS123)



Explanation and communication

Develop texts, particularly narratives and descriptions, which incorporate source materials (ACHHS124)



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

