



# AUSTRALIA

## Lesson Ideas

Below you will find a selection of Australia-themed, curriculum-linked lesson ideas and accompanying activity sheets written for primary and middle years students. All content is copyright free for use by Australian teachers.

### Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will engage with various aspects of Australia's history and culture.
- Students will learn about Australia's famous locations, icons and attractions.
- Students will consider what makes Australia great and how it is viewed around the world, and by new migrants.

### English

- Students to research one popular Australian icon or location and create an advertising campaign enticing international tourists to visit. This could be a picture with a tagline or a story board for a television ad.
- Students to read the information about Australia in Facts for students section (in the Themed Curriculum Support Resources section of the For Teachers for students website), then answer the questions on the **All About Australia** activity sheet.
- Students to create an acrostic poem about 'Australia'.
- Students to write a diary entry from the perspective of someone visiting Australia for the first time.
- Students to write a narrative in the form of their own Aboriginal Dreaming story.
- Students to read Cassie's Australian Odyssey, then complete one, or all of the following activities:
  - Answer the questions on the **Cassie's Australian Odyssey – Comprehension Questions** activity sheet.
  - Research Cyclone Tracy or another major Australian natural disaster.
  - Write some diary entries about an imaginary dream trip.
  - Research the difference between sea lions and fur seals.



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## Mathematics

- Students to investigate the top ten countries in the world according to population. Where does Australia rank?
- Students to research and then record the percentage of Australian citizens who have migrated from other countries. Which countries are people most likely to come from? Why do you think this is so?
- Students to use their measurement and mapping skills to create a scaled map of Australia. They may wish to use an atlas to support them in this task.

## Science

- Students to select a national, state or territory floral or faunal emblem and complete the **Symbols of Australia** activity sheet.
- As a class, students to brainstorm as many native Australian animals as they can. In small groups, students select one animal and research to find out why it is suited to the Australian environment. Consider colour, skin type (e.g. fur, scales etc.) physical features, behaviours etc.
- Australian scientists have made a number of important contributions to various fields. Students to select an Australian scientist and research to find out more about his/her contribution to their chosen field.
- Students to research which minerals can be found in Australia then choose one for a research project.

## Humanities and Social Sciences

### History

- Students to create a timeline of key events in Australia's history.
- Students to research a famous Australian inventor and the impact his/her invention had on society.
- Students to investigate the ancestry of their family and then record it in the form of a basic family tree. If applicable, students could ask a family member who migrated to Australia to tell his/her story to the class.



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## Geography

- Students use maps, globes or online tools to locate and name Australian states, territories, major cities and important natural and man-made landmarks.
- Students to investigate how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' ways of living were adapted to the resources of their Place. What could white settlers have learned from this?
- Students to identify the natural resources that Australia has and discuss how these can be used sustainably.
- Students identify indigenous cultures from other parts of the world and compare them to Australian indigenous cultures.
- Students to interview someone who was born overseas and has moved to Australia. Ask them about the differences and similarities between Australia and their home and why they moved here.

## Economics and Business

- Students to brainstorm the resources that Australia has (natural, human and capital) and discuss how these are used.
- Students to select an Australian owned company and research to find out more about it.

## Civics and Citizenship

- Students to investigate the Australian Constitution. Discuss and debate the values that underpin this important document.
- Students to discuss the Westminster system of government and explore how its key institutions (monarchy, parliaments and courts) apply in Australia.
- Students, working in small groups, research how the federal parliament operates and create a presentation to explain it to another class.
- Students to debate the difference between rights and responsibilities and list some examples of each. How do these relate to Australian citizenship?

## The Arts

- Students to design a new Australian flag. It should include colours or symbols that reflect what Australia means to them.



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- Students to write an additional verse for the Australian national anthem.
- Students to complete the **What Australia Means to Me** activity sheet by creating a collage of Australian icons and/or symbols.
- Students to create water colour paintings of an Australian World Heritage listed site, such as Uluru or Kakadu National Park.
- Students to design and create a postcard that displays their favourite destination in Australia.
- In groups, students to read some Aboriginal Dreaming stories and then role play a story to the class. Some popular Dreaming stories include 'Tiddalik the frog' and 'Thukeri'.

## Technologies

### Design and Technologies

- Students to consider how the Australian agricultural sector has changed over time. How have farming and sustainability practices improved and what are the benefits for the environment?
- Students to select an Australian made product and critique it. Consider materials used, design, purpose, usefulness and sustainability.
- Students to design, and possibly make, a product to address a uniquely Australian issue (think about climate, geography or lifestyle).

## Health and Physical Education

- Students to discuss which foods/dishes they think are culturally Australian. Once a list is compiled, students to research one dish to find out if its origins are in fact Australian.
- Students to research 'bush tucker'. Which foods are considered to be bush tucker? Students to illustrate and write a description of the foods.
- Australia has a proud sporting history. Students to select one sport and collect data about how Australia has performed in this sport over the years. Some examples could include tennis, soccer, hockey, netball, basketball or cricket.

## Languages

- Students to research how to write 'Australia' in some other languages by completing the **Australia in other Languages** activity sheet.