

Australian Citizenship Day

Primary Lesson and Activity Ideas

SOSE / HSIE / the Humanities / Society and History

- Students to complete the **Australian Citizenship Day word search** activity sheet.
- Students to discuss what it means to make a pledge or a promise. New Australian citizens have to make a pledge of loyalty to Australia. As a class, discuss why it is important that such a pledge is made.
- Students to complete the **About Australian citizenship** activity sheet.
- Students to research the first Australian citizenship ceremony conducted in this country. Where and when was it held? Students to write a paragraph describing what happened at that major event.
- Students to complete the **Australian citizenship – true/false quiz** activity sheet.
- Students to investigate what our official national symbols are and then write down two interesting facts about each one. These need to be facts that students did not know prior to their investigation. (Go to: www.itsanhonour.gov.au)
- Students to complete the **Australian citizenship and me** activity sheet.
- Students to imagine they have been asked by someone, who wishes to become an Australian citizen, to explain what a democracy is. What would they say? Have students record their responses digitally.
- Many Australian citizens have shaped our nation into what it is today. Students to write about their favourite Australian and why they think he or she is important to our country.
- Students to complete the **About Australia cross-offs** activity sheet.
- Students to complete the **Australian citizenship affirmation** activity sheet. There are two versions from which you can choose, depending on the age and learning level of your students.

English / English Language / English – Literacy

- Students to complete the **Australian Citizenship Day KWL chart** activity sheet relating to responsibilities and privileges.
- Students to use their dictionary to find the meanings of the following words from the Australian citizenship affirmation interactive. They then use each word in a new sentence of their own: *citizen, loyalty, obey, democratic, rights, people, liberties, uphold, beliefs*.
- As a class activity, role-play an Australian citizenship ceremony.
- Students to investigate, read and compare various poems, song lyrics or short stories written by Australians about our great country. Students to then write their own poem, short story, rap or jingle about how fantastic Australia is.
- Organise a class discussion on the topic: 'Australia is the best country in the world'.



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- Students to imagine that they have recently arrived in Australia from another country. Australia is to be their new home. Students to write a letter to family or friends in their country telling them how amazing Australia is.
- Students to create their own multiple-choice quiz or board game based on questions and answers relating to our national symbols. (Go to: www.itsanhonour.gov.au)
- Students to write a diary entry for our new character Gina Giraffe, talking about her preparing to become an Australian citizen.
- Students to choose one of the other three Australian citizenship characters (Tilly Bilby, Pledge Platypus or Benjiro Bear) and write about what it means to him or her to be an Australian citizen.
- There are many jobs you can apply for when you are an Australian citizen. You can join the defence force, work in the public service, or even be the Prime Minister if you wish! Students to research one job they could do as an Australian citizen and write an application saying why they think they would be good at it.

The Arts / Creative Arts

- Students to create a collage of pictures from magazines and newspapers that depict people being good Australian citizens and contributing to our society in a positive way.
- Students to write new words for one of their favourite tunes to reflect what is great about being an Australian.
- Students to design a fabric or knitted square, a glass mosaic paver, or a clay tile, featuring an Australian symbol. These could be used to make a class quilt, tiled walkway or mural.
- Students to listen to the Australian National Anthem and discuss the various images of Australia and of being Australian that it portrays.
- Make a collage showing a selection of the 'faces of Australia' by pasting pictures from magazines inside a huge outline of Australia.
- Students to make sock or stick puppets of Tilly Bilby, Pledge Platypus, Benjiro Bear and Gina Giraffe. Students could write and present a short play about how either Benjiro Bear or Gina Giraffe felt when they became Australian citizens.

Mathematics / Mathematics - Numeracy

- Students to conduct a survey of their class or year level to discover how many students were born overseas and/or have parents and grandparents who were born overseas. They could list the countries from which they have come and graph the results as a class.
- Students to research statistics on the number of different nationalities that make up the population of Australia. These could be displayed as a computer graph or poster in your classroom. (Go to: www.citizenship.gov.au)

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Science / Design & Technology

- Students to design a new symbol or logo to represent Australian Citizenship Day and what it signifies.
- Students to research an Australian animal, plant or natural wonder (e.g. the Great Barrier Reef) and present their findings as a short talk to the class.
- Students to research some of the great things discovered or invented by Australians that are now being used both in Australia and overseas.
- Students to investigate some famous Australian scientists and the discoveries they made.

Languages / LOTE / English - Literacy

- Students to research some of the most commonly-spoken languages in Australia other than English and try to learn a few words from each of them.
- Many towns and places in Australia have names that come from Indigenous or other languages. Students to investigate some of these names in their local area. What do they mean?
- Students to look in the phone book and list the names that appear most often. Students to select a few names and then use the Internet to investigate the countries from which they originated. Findings to be discussed with the class. Are there similarities between any of the names?

Health and Physical Education / Personal Development / Health and Wellbeing

- Our new character is fit and healthy and loves playing basketball. Students to create a storyboard showing how Gina Giraffe excels in this team sport with Tilly, Pledge and Benjiro. Students to compile a list of special basketball rules that would cater for the skills and abilities of this adventurous team.
- As a class, decide what is going to be your class or school's official 'Australian Citizenship Day Great Aussie Sporting Activity'. It could be a made-up game that is a combination of two traditional games. Why not spend some time playing that game as part of your Australian Citizenship Day activities?
- Students to investigate and list some sports in which Australians have excelled. They could then brainstorm and write about some of our sporting heroes and their key achievements.

