

# Australian Citizenship Day

## Secondary Lesson and Activity Ideas

### **SOSE / HSIE / the Humanities / Society and History**

- Students to complete the Australian Citizenship Day word search activity sheet.
- Students to complete the About Australian citizenship activity sheet.
- Students to investigate our national symbols and then write three facts about each that they didn't know before their investigation. (Go to: [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au))
- 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 be made.
- Australia is a democracy. In pairs, students to take it in turns to interview their partners about what a democracy means to him/her. Share with the class.
- Many Australian citizens have shaped our nation into what it is today. Students to investigate Australian citizens whom they feel have contributed significantly to our national identity. Students to then prepare a short oral or visual presentation for the class about what their chosen person has contributed to Australia.
- Conduct an Australian citizenship affirmation ceremony at your school on Australian Citizenship Day. Details can be found at: [www.citizenship.gov.au/resources](http://www.citizenship.gov.au/resources) Students to complete the Australian citizenship affirmation activity sheet.
- Students to research and then draw their family tree, tracing their line of descent back to the countries of birth of their ancestors. Students to share their findings with peers.
- Students to complete the More about Australian citizenship activity sheet.
- Students to research the first Australian citizenship ceremony conducted in this country. Where and when was it held?

### **English / English Language / English - Literacy**

- Students to complete the Privileges and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen KWL chart activity sheet.
- 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 in which to live and work'.
- Students to imagine that they have recently become Australian citizens. They could then write a letter to family or friends from their chosen country of origin telling them about why they have become an Australian citizen, and what it means to them. Alternatively, students could compose an email instead of writing a letter. Students could exchange emails with other students in the class.
- In small groups, students to research when and how our National Anthem, 'Advance Australia Fair', was adopted. They could prepare and present a brief PowerPoint presentation explaining the history of the National Anthem.

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- Students to interview six people about what it means to them to be an Australian citizen. Students could then use a digital recording device to create a vodcast or short commercial about what it means to be an Australian citizen.
- As a class activity, role play an Australian citizenship ceremony. For details go to [www.citizenship.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.gov.au)
- Using a dictionary, students to write down the meanings of a selection from the following words: citizenship; pledge; loyalty; democracy; beliefs; privileges; responsibilities; respect; parliament; referendum; uphold; obey; diversity; unity; laws; heritage; affirmation; multicultural; liberty; equality; identity.

### **The Arts / Creative Arts**

- Students to write new words to one of their favourite tunes that reflect what is great about living in Australia and being an Australian citizen.
- Students to study the words of the first two verses of the National Anthem. Analyse and discuss the various images of Australia and being Australian that these words portray.
- Make a collage showing a selection of the 'Faces of Australia' by pasting pictures from magazines inside a huge outline of Australia.
- Produce a painting of a famous Australian who has made a positive contribution to Australian society and identity. Display the paintings in an 'Australian Citizenship Gallery of Identities'.
- Write, and perform, a short play about a family of six (two adults and four children aged 17, 14, 10 and 7 years) deciding to become Australian citizens and participating in a citizenship ceremony. Consider how each of the family members might be feeling, what they might be thinking, and why.

### **Mathematics / Mathematics - Numeracy**

- Students to create a short questionnaire and then survey family members, relatives and friends to discover how many students and/or their families were born overseas and have become Australian citizens, and how many were born in Australia. Show on a world map where all these families have come from. Graph the collective results and make some comparisons with students in other classes or schools via email.
- Students to research statistics about the number of nationalities that contribute to the population of Australia. Display the results on a computer-generated graph.

### **Science / Design and Technology**

- Students to design a symbol or logo to represent Australian Citizenship Day and what it signifies.
- Students to research some of the great things discovered or invented by Australians that are now being used both in Australia and overseas. In small groups, students to choose what they consider to be the top three discoveries and present reasons for their decisions to the rest of the class.
- Students to investigate some famous Australian scientists and their discoveries and present their findings using a medium of their choice.

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### **Languages / LOTE / English - Literacy**

- List the countries of origin of students in the class. Some may have more than one. Discuss the various languages spoken by students and/or their families. Ask students who speak another language to speak and/or write some phrases in their language.
- There are a number of reasons why people learn languages other than English in Australia. Students to discuss the advantages of knowing how to speak and write more than one language.
- Students to research some of the most commonly-spoken languages in Australia other than English. Try learning a few words or phrases from each of them.

### **Health and Physical Education / Personal Development / Health and Wellbeing**

- Students to investigate and then list some sports in which Australians have excelled. They could then brainstorm and list some of our sporting heroes and their key achievements.
- As a class, invent new versions of popular games to reflect the importance of everyone having a go and doing their best, regardless of the task. For example, modify the game of softball so that after every run is scored, all team members change positions.
- Students to design the rules for a new Australian game that could be played at school for Australian Citizenship Day on 17 September.