HSIE: History S3 workbook

Name:

Class:

# Overview

Stage 3 – Australia as a nation

Students will identify the origins and development of democracy in Australia and the values of democracy. They will sequence the events and key figures and explain their significance in the lead up to Australia’s Federation in 1901, for example, Sir Henry Parkes, Edmund Barton, Louisa Lawson, Vida Goldstein.

Key inquiry questions for the four activities:

• What is democracy?

• What are the origins of Australian democracy?

• What is the sequence of key events that led to Australia’s Federation?

• Who are the key figures that played a role in the lead up to Australia’s Federation?

## Resources

### Activity 1

* Pens, pencils
* paper
* This workbook
* Help from an adult

### Activity 2

* help from an adult
* Pens, pencils
* paper
* This workbook

### Activity 3

* help from an adult
* Pens, pencils
* paper
* This workbook

### Activity 4

* help from an adult
* Pens, pencils
* paper
* This workbook

# Activity 1

During this activity you will explore the values of democracy.

 Resources – pens, pencils, paper, student workbook

Instruction

During this activity you will list and define some values of democracy. You will look at where these values of democracy occur in Australian society.

Brainstorm/think

 Read

* + List the values of democracy. Your list should include values such as freedom, equality, fairness, justice, freedom of election and being elected, freedom of assembly and political participation, freedom of speech, expression and religious belief, rule of law, other basic human rights.
  + Define 3 examples of values of democracy
  + Use these to complete the table in your student workbook.

Write

**Table – examples of values of democracy**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Value of democracy** | **Definition** | **Australian example** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

# Activity 2

During this activity you will identify the reasons for Australia’s federation, and identify people’s view of Federation. You will list the reasons for Australia’s federation using the perspectives of social, political, economic and cultural.

 Resources – pens, pencils, paper, student workbook

 Read

Read this **sequence of events**. List the main reasons the 6 colonies joined together to form a new nation, the Commonwealth of Australia.

On 1 January 1901 Australians celebrated not only a new year but the birth of our new nation.

A hundred thousand people gathered in Centennial Park to watch as Queen Victoria's representative, the Governor-General Lord Hopetoun, proclaimed the Commonwealth of Australia. They cheered as Edmund Barton was sworn in as Australia's first Prime Minister.

Before 1901 Australia was not a nation. Rather, it was 6 separate British colonies. They were like 6 different countries. Each one had its own parliament, laws, and small defence force. They each taxed goods brought in from the other colonies. They also issued their own stamps, and even built different railway systems, which made travel across the continent very difficult.

The people living in these colonies began to identify themselves as 'Australians', and started to think that the colonies would work better if they united as a nation. They felt a national government should look after things like defence, trade, immigration and foreign policy.

During the 1890s, representatives from each colony met to create a set of rules for how this new nation would work. These rules are known as the Constitution.

In 1899 and 1900 the people in each colony agreed to the Constitution by voting in referendums. It was the first time in history that a group of people voted to create a new nation.

But the colonies were still under the law-making power of Britain. Before they could unite, they needed the approval of the British Parliament.

In July 1900 the British Parliament passed a law—the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. The 6 colonies became the 6 states of Australia and federal Parliament was created. This is known as federation.

On 1 January 1901 federation was celebrated across Australia with parades, street parties, picnics and fireworks.

The first federal Parliament met later that year in Victoria's Parliament House. Australians were ready to unite as 'one people', under 'one flag' with 'one destiny'.

**Reasons for federation**

For at least 50 000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived on these lands and practiced traditional cultures and languages. From the late 1700s, British colonies were established. By the late 1800s, these colonies had their own parliaments but were still subject to the law-making power of the British Parliament.

By the 1880s the inefficiency of this system, a growing unity among colonists and a belief that a national government was needed to deal with issues such as trade, defence and immigration saw popular support for federation grow. Sir Robert Garran, who was active in the federation movement, later reflected that the colonies were united by a combination of 'fear, national sentiment and self-interest'.

**Free trade**

While tariffs provided the colonial governments with much revenue, they restricted trade and movement between the colonies. Tariffs increased the cost of goods and made it hard for manufacturers based outside a colony to compete with local producers.

Trade restrictions also made travelling between colonies difficult; the train journey between Melbourne and Sydney was delayed at the border in Albury while customs officials searched passengers' luggage. Free traders were among the most vocal supporters of federation. They argued abolishing tariffs and creating a single market would strengthen the economy of each colony.

**Defence**

Prior to federation, the colonies were ill-equipped to defend themselves. Each colony had its own militia consisting of a small permanent force and volunteers, but they all relied on the British navy to periodically patrol the Australian coastline. People feared the colonies could be vulnerable to attack from other nations with larger populations and military forces.

The colonies thought a united defence force could better protect Australia. This argument was strengthened by a report released in 1889 by British Major-General Sir J. Bevan Edwards. He found the colonies did not have enough soldiers, weapons or ammunition to adequately defend themselves. The report recommended a national defence force be established.

**Immigration**

In the late nineteenth century many people did not support immigration from non-British countries.

In part, this desire was prompted by concerns 'cheap' non-white labour would compete with colonists for jobs, leading to lower wages and a reduced standard of living. These anxieties stemmed partly from anti-Chinese sentiment dating back to the goldfields of the 1850s. They also reflected resentment towards Pacific Islanders who worked in Queensland's sugar industry.

At the time, racial conflict was seen as an inevitable consequence of a multicultural society. It was felt a national government would be in a better position than the colonies to control immigration.

**National pride**

Colonists mostly shared a common language, culture and heritage, and increasingly began to identify as Australian rather than British. New South Wales Premier, Sir Henry Parkes, referred to this as 'the crimson thread of kinship that runs through us all'.

By federation in 1901 over three-quarters of the population were Australian-born. Many people moved between the colonies to find work, and sporting teams had begun to represent 'Australia'. In 1899 soldiers from the colonies who went to the Boer War in South Africa served together as Australians. Contemporary songs and poems celebrated Australia and Australians.

**Extract from the Parliamentary Education Office:** <https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/history-of-parliament/federation/the-federation-of-australia/>

Write

List the reasons for Federation using the perspectives, social, political, economic and cultural.

**Table – reasons for Australia’s Federation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Perspectives** | **People’s views and reasons** |
| Social |  |
| Political |  |
| Economic |  |
| Cultural |  |

## Reflection

Think about what you have learnt in this activity. Use the two stars and a wish structure to guide your reflection.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Star Something that went well! | Star  Something that went well! | Wish A goal for next time… |
|  |  |  |

## Activity 3

During this activity you will sequence of key events that led to Australia’s Federation.

 Resources – pens, pencils, paper, student workbook

 Read

* + the milestones in Australian democracy timeline
  + Locate and sequence key events that led to the development of Australian Federation and democracy, for example, inland exploration, discovery of gold, migration
  + Organise this information into the table
  + Explain their significance.

**Table – timeline of key events that led to Australia’s Federation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Place** | **Event** |
| 1854 | Sydney | Beginning of Federation movement. Articles published in the Sydney Morning Herald by the Reverend John West promoting a federal union of colonies to have greater influence on London. |
| 1854 | Ballarat | Eureka Rebellion - Gold fields in Ballarat |
| 1889 | Tenterfield | Oration by Sir Henry Parkes |
| 1890 | Melbourne | Australasian Federation Conference |
| 1890 | WA | Last colony becomes self-governing |
| 1893 | Corowa | The ‘Peoples’ Convention’ |
| 1898 | All colonies | Constitution Referendums in all colonies |
| 1900 | Britain | Commonwealth Bill presented in Britain |
| 1901 | Australia | The Federation of Australia is formed |

## Activity 4

During this activity you will sequence key figures in the development of Australian democracy, for example, Sir Henry Parkes, Edmund Barton, Louisa Lawson, Vida Goldstein, Alfred Deakin

* + Research one key figure and explain their significance and key role in the development of Australian democracy.

Suggested questions:

* + Who was the person?
  + What was their viewpoint on Federation?
  + What was their contribution to the establishment of Federation?

 Resources – help from an adult