

Activity

Episode 7
18th March 2014

Federation

Key Learning

Students will examine key dates and people that led to Australia's Federation. They will also investigate reasons for and against Federation and the choice of Canberra as the nation's capital.

The Australian Curriculum

History / 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. [\(ACHHK113\)](#) Year 6



History / Historical Skills / Historical questions and research

Identify questions to inform an historical inquiry [\(ACHHS119\)](#) Year 6



Identify and locate a range of relevant sources [\(ACHHS120\)](#) Year 6



History / Historical Skills / Explanation and communication

Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies [\(ACHHS125\)](#) Year 6



History / Historical Skills / Chronology, terms and concepts

Use historical terms and concepts [\(ACHHS118\)](#) Year 6



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the BtN *Federation* story with another student and record the main points of your discussion.
2. Before Federation, Australia was divided into six separate _____.
3. Which other country might have been part of Australia?
4. Who was Henry Parkes?
5. What was his famous speech about?
6. Why were initial attempts to become a Federation rejected?
7. What role did Alfred Deakin play in Australia becoming a Federation?
8. In what year did Australia become a nation?
9. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?
10. How did Federation impact on Indigenous people and Chinese migrants?

Activities

Discuss the BtN Federation story with students and clarify any questions they have. Students can choose one or more of the following activities.

Federation Bingo

Use key Federation words to create a game of bingo using *Bingo Baker* <https://bingobaker.com/>

Words to include:

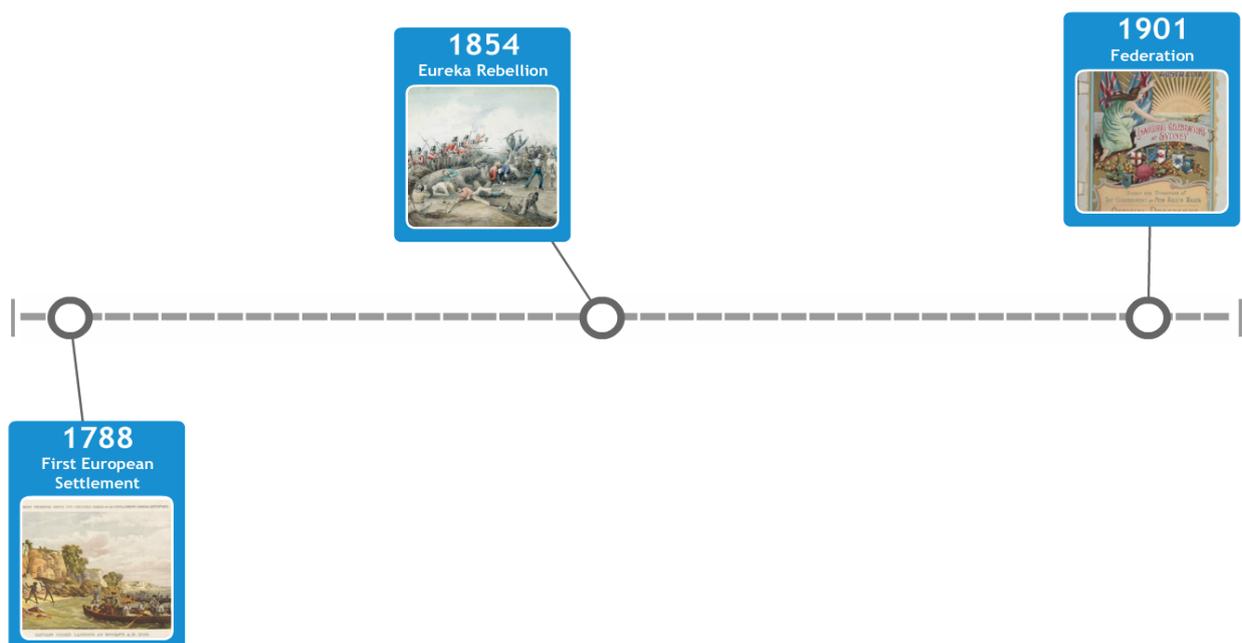
Federation	Colony	Henry Parkes
Alfred Deakin	Federate	Immigration
Convention	Tarrifs	Referendum
Representative	Constitution	Secret ballot
Commonwealth	Free trade	White Australia

Students can then research what each word means in the context of Federation.

Key dates in Federation

Students make a timeline of key events leading to Australia's Federation. They need to include the date, event, a brief description of what happened and an image (if available). Students can create their timeline in any way they choose. An interactive timeline creator is available at the *Read Write Think* website <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/timeline-30007.html>

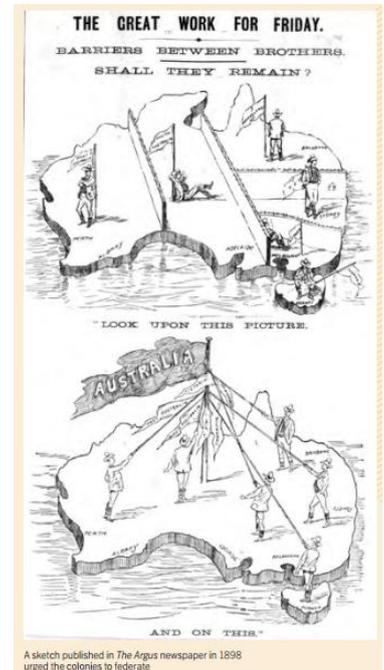
Federation Timeline



Reasons for and against Federation

Students will investigate the reasons for and against Federation using a T-chart.

Reasons for Federation	Reasons against Federation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Better transport between the colonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New South Wales and Victoria were more powerful than the other colonies



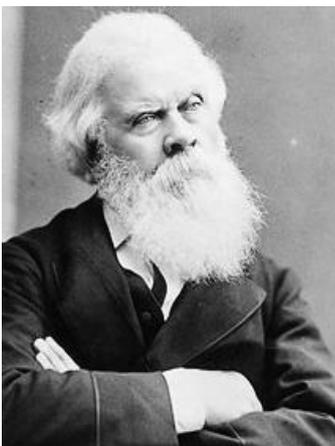
What is the message in this image?

To investigate the topic further, students consider the following question:

What would Australia be like if Federation had never happened?

Significant people in Federation

Students choose a key person in Federation history and research the answers to the questions.



Henry Parkes (1815 – 1895)

- Why was Henry Parkes known as the 'Father of Federation'?
- What was his famous speech 'The Tenterfield Address' about?
- What is significant about the date of Parkes' death?
- Why do you think Parkes is referred to as one of the most significant politicians in Australian history?



Alfred Deakin (1856-1919)

- Who was Alfred Deakin? Give a brief summary.
- Where was he born?
- What were Alfred Deakin's views about Federation?
- What significant things happened when Deakin was Prime Minister?



Edmund Barton (1849-1920)

- Edmund Barton was Australia's first...
- What contribution did Barton make to Federation?
- What is an interesting fact about Edmund Barton?

The Nation's Capital

A point that couldn't be agreed on by the six colonies was the location of the nation's capital. Both Melbourne and Sydney claimed the right to be the capital. A compromise was reached where a separate capital city would be created.

Research Questions

- Which city was the temporary capital until a new city was established?
- What historical events led to the decision to create a new city as a capital?
- How was the location selected?
- What other locations were considered?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of Canberra being chosen as the nation's capital?

Further Investigation

The Commonwealth of Australia was declared on 1 January 1901. A week of celebrations took place around the nation. Create a collage of images that show Federation celebrations.

Investigate what life was like around the time of Federation for Indigenous people and Chinese migrants. How did the key people involved in Federation view immigration?

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Constitution

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3939299.htm>

Australia.gov – Australia's Federation

<http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/our-government/australias-federation>

Parliamentary Education Office -Federation

<http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/fact-sheets/federation.html>

ABC Centenary of Federation – Federation Story

<http://www.abc.net.au/federation/fedstory/home.htm>

Australian Dictionary of Biography – Henry Parkes

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/parkes-sir-henry-4366>

Civics and Citizenship Education – Alfred Deakin

<http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/deakin,9127.html>

Civics and Citizenship Education – Henry Parkes

<http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/parkes,9158.html>

Civics and Citizenship Education – Edmund Barton

<http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/barton,9076.html>

An Ideal City – A nation needs a capital

http://www.idealcity.org.au/a_nation_needs-1.html