


**Inquiry Questions**

1. How have key figures, events and values shaped Australian society, its system of government and citizenship?
2. What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?

**Australian System of Government**

Knowledge	Understanding	Applying	Analysing	Creating	Evaluating
<p>Australia is a <b>federation</b>, a <b>constitutional monarchy</b> and a <b>parliamentary democracy</b>. <i>What does all this mean?</i></p> <p>Research these terms and explain how they are all related to Australia's system of government.</p> <p>Include an explanation of the <i>Westminster system</i> and its origins, and why Australia adopted this system of governance.</p> <p>Use primary sources of information to assist with your research, such as:</p> 	<p>What is the <i>Australian Constitution</i> and how does it determine Australia's system of governance?</p> <p><i>What are the two houses that make the Australian Parliament?</i></p> <p>Explain the difference between the two houses and why they are called <i>bicameral</i>.</p> <p><b>Separation of Powers</b> <i>What are the three arms of government and how does each one ensure Australia maintains principles surrounding the rule of law in its democracy?</i></p> <p>Complete the following activity: <a href="#">Separation of Powers</a></p> <p>Create a diagram with explanations to help support your thinking.</p>	<p>Investigate a bill that is currently before parliament by visiting this website: <a href="#">Bills currently before Parliament</a></p> <p>Write a report on the details of the bill and its current status in Parliament.</p> <p><i>How will the bill you have chosen impact Australian society if it is passed?</i></p> <p><i>(You can choose to work with a partner for this task, and don't forget to ask for assistance from your teacher if you are unsure of anything and need to gain better understanding).</i></p>	<p>The Australian Constitution is an important document that provides a framework for Australian law.</p> <p>Visit this website to learn about how a law is made in Australia <a href="#">Making a law in the Australian Parliament</a></p> <p><i>What is Parliament's function in the process of making laws?</i></p> <p>What is a <i>Bill</i>, and how does it get passed in Parliament?</p>	<p>Complete this worksheet to better understand how laws are made in the Australian Parliament: <a href="#">Bills and Laws</a></p> <p>Create a flowchart of how a bill gets passed to become a law.</p> <p><b>Nationhood</b> <i>What is nationhood?</i></p> <p><i>Why is it important for Australians to feel a sense of nationhood?</i></p> <p><i>What are some of the national emblems and cultural practices that contribute to Australian citizens feeling their sense of Australian identity?</i></p> <p>Create a poster celebrating Australian culture and the democratic freedoms we enjoy today.</p>	<p>Freedom of speech is one of many important democratic principles that must be upheld in Australian society.</p> <p><i>How is this maintained in our society?</i></p> <p><i>What would happen in Australian society if citizens could not exercise the right to free speech?</i></p>



## Year 6 ACARA – Humanities and Social Sciences Program Links

### *Australia in the past and present and its connections with a diverse world*

The Year 6 curriculum focuses on the social, economic and political development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900, and Australia's role within a diverse and interconnected world today. Students explore the events and developments that shaped Australia as a democratic nation and stable economy, and the experiences of the diverse groups who have contributed to and are/were affected by these events and developments, past and present.

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#### **Inquiry and Skills**

ACHASSI125 *Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines*

- locating key events, ideas, movements and lives in a chronological sequence on timelines and flowcharts
- developing flowcharts to show steps in a sequence (for example, the flow of goods and services, the passage of a bill through parliament)

ACHASSI133 *Present ideas, findings, viewpoints and conclusions in a range of texts and modes that incorporate source materials, digital and non-digital representations and discipline-specific terms and conventions using accurate and subject-appropriate terms, for example, historical terms (such as 'nation', 'democracy', 'federation', 'empire', 'immigration', 'deportation', 'suffrage', 'enfranchisement', 'heritage', 'diversity', 'contribution', 'achievement', 'significance', 'development', 'rural', 'urban', 'bias', 'stereotype', 'perspective'), civics and citizenship terms (such as 'Westminster system', 'courts', 'monarchy' and 'three levels of government')*

## **HISTORY Knowledge and Understanding**

#### **Concepts for developing understanding**

The content in the history sub-strand provides opportunities for students to develop historical understanding through key concepts including sources, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance. The Year 6 curriculum moves from colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and the different attitudes to Federation and citizenship at the time (continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives). Through studies of people's experiences of democracy and citizenship over time (perspectives, empathy), students come to understand the significance of events, ideas and people's contributions in influencing development of Australia's system of government (continuity and change, significance).

#### **Inquiry Questions**

1. *What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?*

ACHASSK134 *Key figures, events and ideas that led to Australia's Federation and Constitution*

- identifying key elements of Australia's system of law and government and their origins (for example, the Magna Carta; federalism; constitutional monarchy; the Westminster system and the separation of powers – legislature, executive, judiciary; the houses of parliament; how laws are made)

**Activities to support knowledge and understanding of these topics can be found at:**

**[Primary Education Resources](#)**