

Australia Day

26 January

A time to celebrate shared values

Respect, inclusion, civility, responsibility, compassion,
equality, and the opportunity to have a fair go

A time to appreciate

Our democratic rights and the rule of law



STUDENT ACTIVITY PACK



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Happy Australia Day!

26 January

Australia Day is a national public holiday for all Australians to reflect back on our history and celebrate the special gifts our nation has to offer. Today, citizens live under one of the most successful democratic systems of governance in the world. As a result, they enjoy living a relaxed, comfortable, and safe lifestyle. Everyone is free to choose how they want to live, and most importantly how they want to be governed.

Throughout the timeline of Australia's development, many significant events have occurred, reaching all the way back to ancient times, as people have arrived on this land for many different reasons and under different circumstances. Australian society is highly diverse, comprising of indigenous peoples, country born citizens, and new migrants that have come from many other countries all around the world. Shared values, such as respect, equality, and tolerance join us together in a common bond. Celebrating Australia Day gives everyone the opportunity to reflect and acknowledge our past, and practice these important values to continue supporting a cohesive society. Family and community events bring everyone together to share and celebrate our collective rich cultural heritage.

January 26 provides an opportunity for everyone to sit back and relax, and think about what it means to be an Australian citizen. So, let's have a look at what you can do to feel a sense of belonging and remember how lucky we are to live in a place like Australia!



Write a list of special occasions that Australian citizens love to celebrate during the year.

Ask a friend about their ideas so you can add them to your list.

You may not celebrate all events, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy being a part of someone else's celebration!



It's easy to forget that not all countries have such a relaxed and relatively safe society for its citizens to live in.

Explain the benefits of living in a democracy and how it impacts your everyday life.



What responsibilities do we have to preserve our democracy and maintain a 'healthy' nation into the future?

Write about how we can better appreciate what we have and become responsible citizens in maintaining Australia's democratic way of life.

How will you celebrate Australia Day?



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Australian Values

Australian values are fundamental in maintaining our democratic rights. Everyone plays an important role in supporting the freedoms we all share as we live in Australian society.

Cut out these pieces and match each value to the correct definition.

Click this link to access more resources [Civics and Citizenship](#)



Freedom of Speech

Everyone is expected to uphold shared principles and values that support Australia's way of life.

Shared Values

Strong community spirit in Australia comes from mutual respect. Change should occur through discussion, peaceful persuasion, and following democratic process.

Peacefulness and Mutual Respect

Australians are free to gather together for a common goal to form and join an association, and protest against any organisation (including the government), as long as it remains peaceful and does not damage or injure people or property.

Freedom of Religion

Citizens can say or write what they think about Australian governments, or other subjects through freedom of speech. However, no one is allowed to endanger, make false allegations, or obstruct the free speech of others.

Freedom of Assembly and Association

Citizens are free to follow any religion they choose.

Equality Under the Law

All Australians are expected to treat each other with respect and dignity. Australians reject conflict and violence.

Democracy

Everyone is given a 'fair go' by respecting equal rights and opportunities.

Respect, Dignity and Freedom for Individuals

Australia is a parliamentary democracy, where elected parliaments are the only bodies able to make laws. Governments are accountable to all Australians.

Equal Opportunity and Egalitarianism

All Australians are equal under the law. Nobody should be treated differently from anybody else because of race, religion, ethnicity or country of origin; because of age, gender, marital status or disability; or because of political or religious beliefs.

Australian Law

Australian governance does not have any official or state religion. Religious laws have no legal status in Australia.

Freedom of secular Government

All Australians are equally protected by the law. No one is exempt or above the law, including people who hold positions of power, such as politicians or the police.

Rule of Law

All people must obey the nation's laws, which are made by the Australian Commonwealth, state, and territory parliaments. Citizens who break the law face civil and criminal prosecution.



Australian Democratic Beliefs

Parliamentary Democracy

The power of the government is held by the people who choose representatives through regular elections

The Rule of Law

The law is applied equally and fairly, so that no one is above the law

Respect for All Individuals

All Australians are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect, regardless of:

age
race
gender
heritage
culture
disability
religion
country of origin
sexual orientation
marital status
political views
wealth

Living Peacefully

A stable and peaceful nation where change occurs through open and free discussion, and the democratic process

Respecting Australia's Rights and Liberties

More details can be found at Department of Home Affairs publication
'Australian Citizenship: Our Common Bond'



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The Australian National Flag

The Australian National Flag is a symbol of our nation and an expression of our identity and pride.

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I love the way our flag has **three sections** that tie our nation together.

The **Union Jack** reminds me of British settlement in 1788 which brought the foundations of Australia's system of governance.


The **Commonwealth Star** represents one nation, uniting all states and territories at Federation in 1901.

The **Southern Cross** reminds me of Australia's geographical position in the world and the Eureka stockade, where it became a symbol of standing together for rights and liberties.

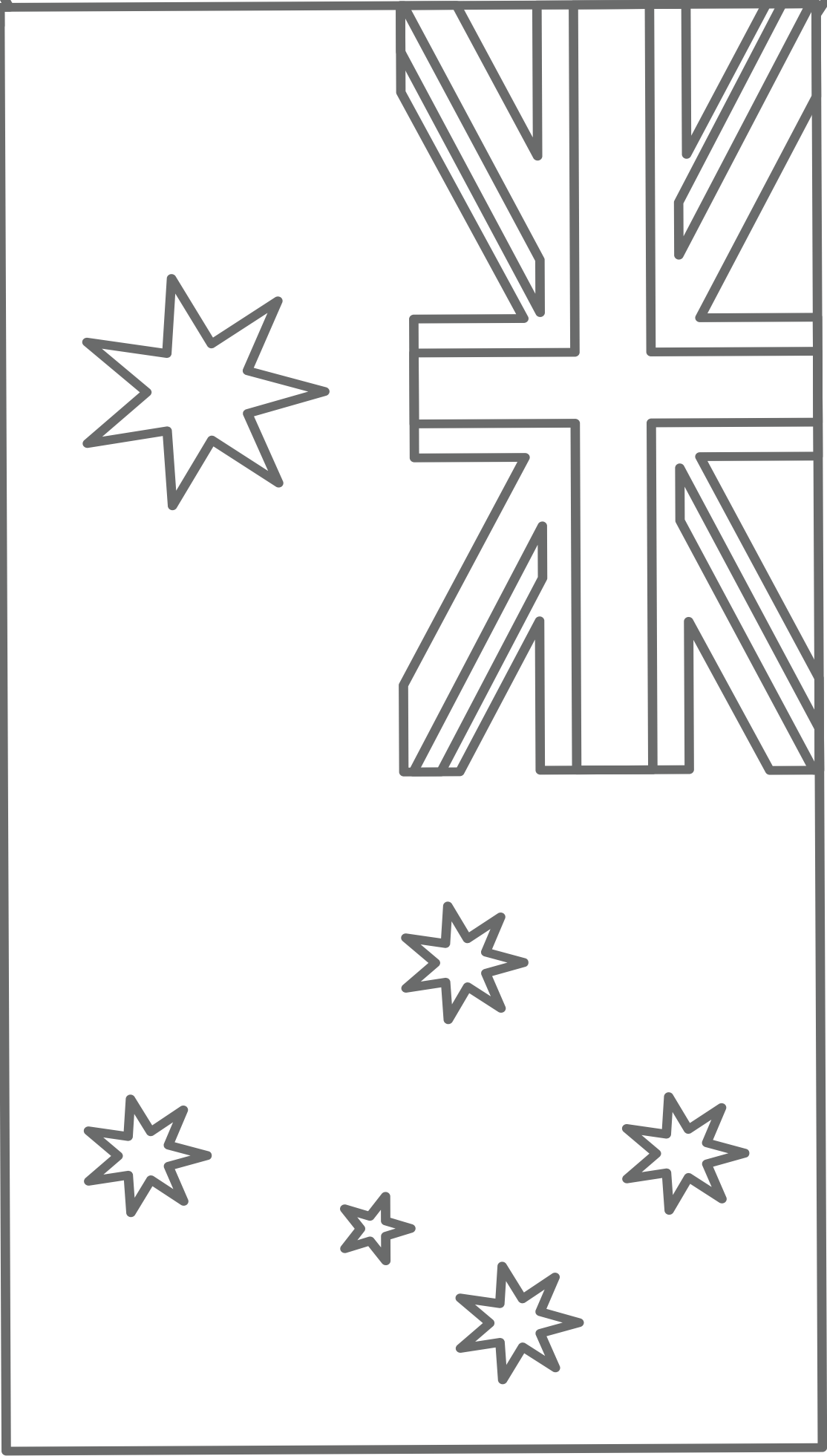


KATE
AUSTRALIAN
SCHOOL STUDENT

What does the Australian National Flag mean to you?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____



Research the colour pattern of the Australian National Flag and colour this design for your own flag. Then, cut it out and glue onto a paddlepop stick.

You can wave your flag at your celebration event on Australia Day!

Australian Values ANSWERS



Freedom of Speech	Citizens can say or write what they think about Australian governments, or other subjects through freedom of speech. However, no one is allowed to endanger, make false allegations, or obstruct the free speech of others.
Shared Values	Everyone is expected to uphold shared principles and values that support Australia's way of life.
Peacefulness and Mutual Respect	Strong community spirit in Australia comes from mutual respect. Change should occur through discussion, peaceful persuasion, and following democratic process.
Freedom of Religion	Citizens are free to follow any religion they choose.
Freedom of Assembly and Association	Australians are free to gather together for a common goal to form and join an association, and protest against any organisation (including the government), as long as it remains peaceful and does not damage or injure people or property.
Equality Under the Law	All Australians are equal under the law. Nobody should be treated differently from anybody else because of race, religion, ethnicity or country of origin; because of age, gender, marital status or disability; or because of political or religious beliefs.
Support for Democracy	Australia is a parliamentary democracy, where elected parliaments are the only bodies able to make laws. Governments are accountable to all Australians.
Respect, Dignity and Freedom for Individuals	All Australians are expected to treat each other with respect and dignity. Australians reject conflict and violence.
Equal Opportunity and Egalitarianism	Everyone is given a 'fair go' by respecting equal rights and opportunities.
Australian Law	All people must obey the nation's laws, which are made by the Australian Commonwealth, state, and territory parliaments. Citizens who break the law face civil and criminal prosecution.
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