

STUDY TASK CARD 3

Australia Becomes a Nation



Research how the Australian colonies changed from the time of being a penal colony in New South Wales 1788, to becoming a group of colonies across Australia by 1900.

Write about how the colonies had grown over this period and explain what challenges they faced as the country developed.



Why did the Australian colonies need to join together to become one federated society?

To complete this task, you will need to think about how the colonies were operating before 1900. Some points for investigation can be;

1. What resources were available across each colony, ranging from the dry desert environment of Western Australia to the wet tropics of north Queensland? Resources such as water, food availability and materials for buildings were very different. How do you think the colonies managed these resources for their citizens?
2. Identify any major events that had occurred to cause large populations to relocate. What reasons would people have to migrate to other colonies, particularly when the environments they were moving to were so harsh and difficult to survive in?
3. Border control – how did each colony maintain the rule of law within its towns and keep track of people as they moved between colonies?
4. Infrastructure – the development of towns and cities, and transport options (such as railways). How did the terrain create challenges for the movement of goods as well as people between colonial borders?
5. Trade – what was available in each colony that could be traded to generate wealth for growth?
6. The challenge of distances within and between each colony.

In your explanation, include a definition of federation. Think about what advantages were to be gained in all colonies joining the federation movement.

