



Teacher Resource

Political Parties

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is a political party?
2. What are the two major political parties in Australia? Who are the leaders of the parties?
3. The Coalition is made up of which two parties?
4. Give an example of a minor party.
5. How many members do you need to register a political party?
 - a. 15
 - b. 150
 - c. 1500
6. What impact can independents have in parliament?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Political Parties story. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What is a political party? Come up with a class definition.
- What are the major political parties in Australia?
- The Coalition is made up of which two political parties?
- What is the role of minor parties in Australian politics?
- What is an Independent?
- How many members do you need to register a new political party?



What did the
BTN story make
you wonder?

What did you
learn watching
the BTN story?

EPISODE 9

1 April 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn what a political party is and the role they play in elections.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

The key features of the electoral process in Australia.

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

HASS – Year 6

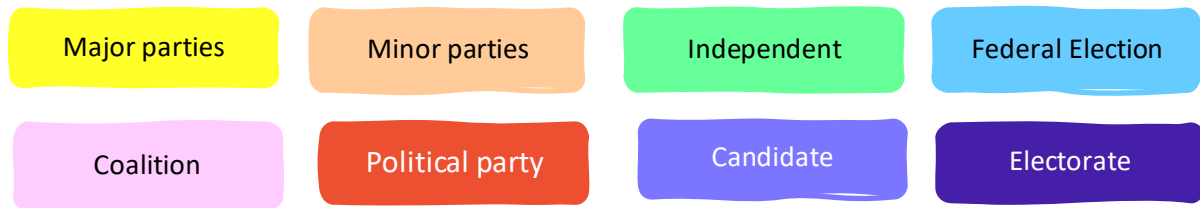
The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 7

Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australia's democracy.

Activity: Key words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Political Parties story. Here are some words to get them started.



Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

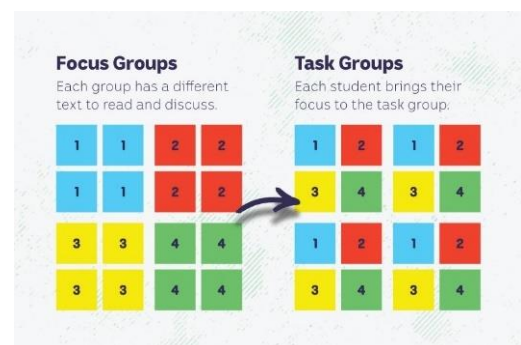
Activity: Jigsaw learning activity

In this jigsaw learning activity students will work cooperatively to learn more about political parties and the issues they stand for. Each group will become experts and then share what they have learnt with other students.

Form groups

Divide the class into 4 or 5 Focus Groups (depending on how many political parties are chosen). Each Focus Group will choose a different political party (major or minor) to research.

Here is a list to help students choose [Register of political parties AEC](#)



Each group will need to decide how they will collect and communicate the information they find during their research.

Research

Each Focus Group will work as a team to learn as much as they can about their topic. They will use the following as a guide for their research.

- Who is the leader of the political party? What is the history of the party? Give a brief summary.
- How many Members of Parliament does the party have (upper and lower house)?
- What issues are important to the party? What are their shared values and goals?
- Other interesting or important information about the party.

Share

Mix the Focus Groups to form Task Groups (Task Groups include one student from each of the Focus Groups) to share the information they have collected. Students will share the information they have collected and learn from one another.

Reflect

After this activity, ask students to reflect on what they have learnt. What do they know about political parties now? How has their thinking changed?

Activity: Interview a leader

Students will imagine they are given the opportunity to interview the leader of one of Australia's political parties. Their task is to write a list of interview questions that they would like to ask the leader of the party. Students need to remember to write open-ended questions. Open-ended questions have no right or wrong answer and can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'.

Before writing their interview questions, students will need to think about the following:

- Who are the candidates for the political parties in the 2025 Federal Election?
- What are the political parties in Australia? What do they stand for?
- What issues would you like to ask about in your interview? Think about topics such as education, the environment, social media, cost of living etc.
- Choose a topic that is important to you and your school community. What do you want the leader of the party to do about it?

Students can test their knowledge of political parties in the Australian Parliament with this [PEO Quiz](#). The quiz is also available as a Kahoot.



Activity: Election Lingo

Election reporting can be full of words and phrases that we don't hear too often and can sound a little complicated. BTN asked some rookie reporters to explain some election terms. Watch BTN's Election Lingo videos to learn more about electorates, political parties, political seats and the democracy sausage!



[Electorates](#)



[Political Parties](#)



[Safe and Marginal Seats](#)



[Democracy Sausage](#)

Useful Websites

- [Political Parties](#) – PEO
- [Independents](#) – PEO
- [Election Lingo: Parties](#) – BTN