



Teacher Resource

Coalition Drama

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 two political parties make up the Coalition?
2. What are the advantages of teaming up to form a coalition?
3. The Coalition have never split before now. True or false?
4. What law did the parties in the Coalition recently have a disagreement about?
5. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story?

Activity: Discuss

After watching the BTN Coalition Drama story students discuss the story in pairs. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Below are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What is a coalition government? Come up with a definition.
- When was the first coalition government formed in Australia?
- The Coalition is made up of which two political parties?
- Who are the leaders of the parties that make up the Coalition?
- Why do political parties join to make a coalition?
- Why did the Coalition split? Give one reason.



Activity: Ask a Question

Do you have a question about coalition of parties in government that you would like to ask as a class? Send it into the PEO's [Your questions on notice](#)

Below is an example from the PEO's Your Questions on Notice.

"What would happen if the coalition of parties in government decided to break their coalition? – [Response](#)

What questions do you have?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the history of Australia's coalition government.

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.

Develop questions to investigate people, events, developments, places and systems.

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 Coalition Drama story. Here are some words to get them started.

POLITICAL PARTY	COALITION OF PARTIES	GOVERNMENT
OPPOSITION	MAJOR PARTIES	MINOR PARTIES

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.

Further activities for students:

- Become an etymologist and study the origin and history of the word *coalition*. Where does the word *coalition* come from?
- Visit the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) for a [glossary](#) to browse or search the meanings of key parliamentary terms.
- Watch BTN's [Election Lingo](#) video to learn more about political parties.



BTN [Election Lingo](#) video

Activity: Parliamentary Education Resources

Researching political parties

Students will create a list of the current political parties in the Senate and House of Representatives. Refer to the [PEO's lesson plan](#) including discussion questions to guide this activity.



Create political parties

Students will investigate how the party system operates in Australia by creating their own political parties. Download the PEO [resource](#) for step-by-step instructions, worksheets and further resources.

Quiz – the role of political parties

Test your students' knowledge of political parties in the Australian Parliament with this fun quiz. It includes key parliamentary terms such as 'hung parliament' and 'crossing the floor'.

[Link to PEO Quiz](#)

Useful Websites

- [Coalition Split](#) – BTN
- [Why do the Nationals and Liberals work together while the other parties \(Labor, Greens, etc\) are by themselves?](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Coalition governments: what are they and how do they work?](#) – Museum of Australian Democracy