

## Teacher Resource

# History of Parliament

## Focus Questions

1. Discuss the *Parliament Anniversary* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. Complete this sentence. Before Federation, Australia was divided into 6 different British \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What year did Australia become the Commonwealth of Australia?
4. Who is the Head of State in Australia?
5. Who was Australia's first prime minister?
6. In which city was Australia's first Parliament House opened?
7. Where is Australia's current Parliament House?
8. What year was Australia's current Parliament House opened?
9. Describe what Parliament House looks like.
10. What did you learn watching the BTN story?

## Activity

### What do you see, think and wonder?

After watching the BTN *Parliament Anniversary* story, respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?

## Activity

### Key Words

Students will develop a glossary of terms that relate to the history of parliament in Australia. Below are some key words to get them started:

Federation	Constitution	Senate
House of Representatives	Westminster System	Parliament

## Key Learning

Students will learn more about the history of parliament in Australia.

## Curriculum

### Civics and Citizenship – Year 6

The key institutions of Australia's democratic system of government and how it is based on the Westminster system.

### History – Year 6

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

## Activity

### History of Parliament House

Students investigate the history of Parliament House using the questions below to help guide their research.

- How and when did Canberra come to be Australia's capital city?
- When and where did Australia's Federal Parliament first meet?
- When was Australia's 'new' Parliament House built?
- Where is it located?
- Who officially opened the building?
- Who designed the building and how long did it take to construct?

## Activity

### Organise history through pictures

Find and collect images, photographs and illustrations that represent the history of Australia's Parliament House. Students may want to organise and sequence their pictures in the form of a timeline.

Refer to the following websites for sources of information.

- [The National Archives of Australia](#)
- [Parliament of Australia](#)
- [Parliamentary Education Office](#)



Images: Parliamentary Education Office

## Activity

### The Nation's Capital

A point that couldn't be agreed on by the six colonies was the location of the nation's capital. Both Melbourne and Sydney claimed the right to be the capital. A compromise was reached where a separate capital city would be created. Ask students to research and respond to the following questions:

- Which city was the temporary capital until a new city was established?
- What historical events led to the decision to create a new city as a capital?
- How was the location selected?
- What other locations were considered?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of Canberra being chosen as the nation's capital?

## Activity

### BTN Federation story

Watch the [BTN Federation story](#) and answer the questions below.

1. Before Federation, Australia was divided into six separate \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Which other country might have been part of Australia?
3. Who was Henry Parkes?
4. What was his famous speech about?
5. Why were initial attempts to become a Federation rejected?
6. What role did Alfred Deakin play in Australia becoming a Federation?
7. In what year did Australia become a nation?
8. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?



## Useful Websites

PEO – The First Parliament

<https://www.peo.gov.au/learning/closer-look/short-history/the-first-parliament.html>

Parliament of Australia – History of Parliament House

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Visit\\_Parliament/Things\\_to\\_Do/Take\\_in\\_some\\_history](https://www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Things_to_Do/Take_in_some_history)

BTN - Parliament House

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/parliament-house/10529908>

BTN – Federation

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/federation/10528704>

Museum of Democracy Old Parliament House – Parliament

[https://explore.moadoph.gov.au/timelines/parliament?\\_ga=2.149307829.202059.1556604572-1296603443.1556604572](https://explore.moadoph.gov.au/timelines/parliament?_ga=2.149307829.202059.1556604572-1296603443.1556604572)