



Teacher Resource

Aboriginal Flag Anniversary

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 do the colours on the Aboriginal flag represent?
2. In 1972, the flag became a famous symbol at which protest site in Canberra?
3. Which Australian athlete sparked controversy at the 1994 Commonwealth Games by carrying both the Aboriginal and Australian flags during her victory lap?
4. When did the Aboriginal flag become an official flag of Australia?
5. What does the Aboriginal flag mean to you?

Activity: Comprehension

After watching the BTN Aboriginal Flag Anniversary story students can answer one or more of the following questions:

- What are some keywords from the BTN story?
- What did you learn from the story? Write a summary.
- Why do you think BTN covered the story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion after watching the BTN story using the following questions as a guide. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map with ABORIGINAL FLAG at the centre.

- Who designed the Aboriginal flag?
- When and where was the flag first flown?
- What do the colours - black, red and yellow on the flag represent?
- Where can you see the Aboriginal flag in your community?
- What is the significance of the Aboriginal flag to you and/or to your school and community?



Did you know? The black section must always be at the top when the flag is flown. Why do you think that is?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the history of the Aboriginal flag.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3

Significant events, symbols and emblems that are important to Australia's identity and diversity, and how they are celebrated, commemorated or recognised in Australia, including Australia Day, Anzac Day, NAIDOC Week, National Sorry Day, Easter, Christmas, and other religious and cultural festivals.

The ways First Nations Australians in different parts of Australia are interconnected with Country/Place.

HASS – Year 4

The diversity of First Nations Australians, their social organisation and their continuous connection to Country/Place.

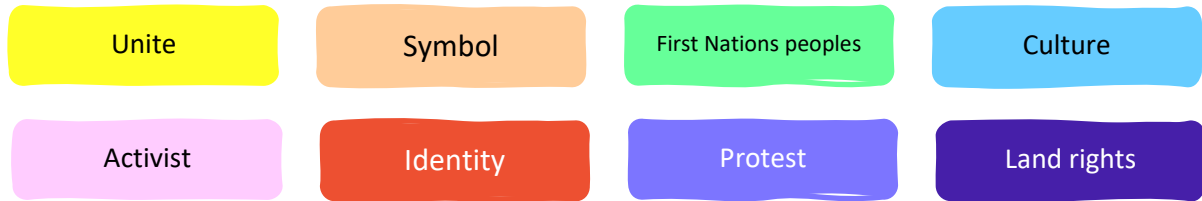
HASS – Year 5 and 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images and names of deceased persons.

Activity: Key Words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Aboriginal Flag Anniversary 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: Aboriginal flag timeline

Students place the following key moments in the correct chronological order from 1 to 6. Write the numbers next to the events. Choose **one** of the events from the list below to investigate further.

Students use their research to answer these questions:

- What happened during this event?
- Why was this moment so important for the Aboriginal flag?
- Create a poster, write a short paragraph, or draw a picture explaining your chosen event.

☐

The Australian Government officially proclaims the flag under the *Flags Act 1953*.

☐

Harold Thomas designs the Aboriginal flag.

☐

The Aboriginal flag is flown at Victoria Square, Adelaide.

☐

The Commonwealth secures the copyright, making the flag free for public use.

☐

The flag achieves national prominence at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra.

☐

Olympic athlete Cathy Freeman wore both the Australian and Aboriginal flags during her victory lap at the Commonwealth Games.

Activity: Aboriginal Flag Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Aboriginal Flag Anniversary story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

Research Questions

- In what ways is the Aboriginal flag a symbol of cultural identity?
- What protocols should be followed when flying the Aboriginal flag?
- How does the Aboriginal flag tell a story without using words?
- In 1995, the Australian government made the Aboriginal flag an official flag of Australia. Why do you think official recognition is important for the people a flag represents?
- How do other flags around the world use colour to represent their people and geography?

BTN First Nations collection

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on First Nations.

Look for BTN stories with the pencil icon  to find supporting teacher resources all linked to the Australian Curriculum. [BTN – First Nations Collection](#)



Useful Websites

- [Aboriginal Flag History](#) – BTN
- [Free the Flag](#) – BTN
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags](#) – Australian Museum
- [Moments of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags](#) – Australian Government
- [First Nations Stories](#) – BTN