



Teacher Resource

Free the Flag

Focus Questions

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

1. Who designed the Aboriginal flag?
2. Where was the Aboriginal flag first flown?
3. What do the colours of the Aboriginal flag represent?
4. When did the Aboriginal flag become recognised as an official flag of Australia?
5. Why did the government buy the rights to use the Aboriginal flag?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN story as a class. Ask students to record what they know about the Aboriginal flag. What questions do they have? In small groups, ask students to brainstorm responses to the following questions:

- What are the flags of Australia?
- List some places you would see flags.
- What do you know about the Aboriginal flag?
- What do the colours of the flag represent or symbolise?
- Where can you see the Aboriginal flag in your community?
- How do you feel when you see the Aboriginal flag?
- What does the Aboriginal flag mean to you?
- Are flags important? Give reasons for your answer.



Activity: Glossary

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

SYMBOLISE	COPYRIGHT	CULTURAL IDENTITY
REPRESENT	OFFICIAL	COMMONWEALTH

EPISODE 1

1st February 2022

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the history and meaning of the Aboriginal flag.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems.

HASS – Year 6

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children.

Activity: Aboriginal Flag Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Free the Flag story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- What is the history of the Aboriginal flag? Who created it, why and when was it first flown?
- In what ways is the Aboriginal flag a symbol of cultural identity?
- How and why do people use flags?
- What is the significance of the Aboriginal flag to you and/or to your school and community?
- What protocols should be followed when flying the Aboriginal flag?
- Survey friends and family about the meaning of the Aboriginal flag. What was surprising about the results?
- Should Australia have one national flag that represents all people? Develop an argument for or against the issue.

Activity: Flags of Australia

Working individually or in pairs, students choose one of the following flags to research.



Students investigate:

- Who designed the flag?
- What is the history of the flag?
- Who or what does the flag represent?
- What do the symbols mean?
- When and why do we fly the flag (significant dates)?
- Are there any rules for flying the flag?

Activity: Quiz

1. The Aboriginal flag was created by Harold Thomas.

A. True

B. False

2. In which year was the flag created?

A. 1901

B. 1931

C. 1970

3. Where was the Aboriginal flag first flown?

A. Wave Hill, Northern Territory

B. The Tent Embassy, Canberra

C. Victoria Square, Adelaide

4. In what year were the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags officially recognised as flags of Australia?

A. 1971

B. 1995

C. 2022

5. Until recently, who had the copyright to the Aboriginal flag?

A. The Commonwealth

B. State Governments

C. Harold Thomas

Quiz Answers: 1A, 2C, 3C, 4B, 5C

Useful Websites

- [Aboriginal flag copyright transferred to Commonwealth, as artist agrees to make flag freely available to all](#) – ABC News
- [Who is Harold Thomas, the man who created the Aboriginal flag?](#) – ABC News
- [Aboriginal Flag Debate](#) - BTN
- [Aboriginal Flag History](#) – BTN
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags](#) - Australian Museum