

Teacher Resource

National Anthem

Focus Questions

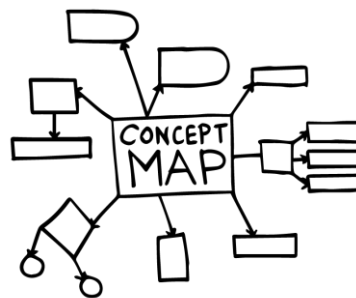
1. Briefly summarise the BTN *National Anthem* story.
2. What year was Advance Australia Fair written?
3. Advance Australia Fair was written by an Australian man. True or false?
4. What anthem did Australia use before Advance Australia Fair was written?
5. Why did Australians want a new national anthem?
6. How did Australia choose its new national anthem?
7. How many verses does Advance Australia Fair have?
8. Why did a Queensland student refuse to stand for the national anthem during school?
9. What did you learn watching the BTN story?
10. Do you think the national anthem should be changed? Give reasons for your answer.

Activity

Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN *National Anthem* story as a class, using the following questions to guide the discussion. Record the main points on a mind map with 'National Anthem' at the centre.

- What is the name of Australia's national anthem?
- When would you hear the national anthem? Give some examples (sporting events and ceremonies).
- When have you sung the national anthem?
- How does the national anthem make you feel?
- Why do we have a national anthem?
- Do you think our national anthem represents Australia? Why or why not?



KWLH

What questions were raised in the discussion about Australia's national anthem and what are the gaps in their knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I know?</i>	<i>What do I want to know?</i>	<i>What have I learnt?</i>	<i>How will I find out?</i>

Key Learning

Students will learn about the history of the national anthem and develop an argument for or against changing the national anthem.

Curriculum

History – 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

English – Year 5

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience

Activity

Topics for Inquiry

- Why do we have a national anthem?
- What do you know about Australia's national anthem?
- What does *Advance Australia Fair* tell you about Australia? Think about symbols and meanings of the words.
- Is it important that we have a national anthem? Give reasons.
- Should all Australians know the national anthem? Explain your answer.
- Who should be represented in the anthem? Think about different cultural groups and Indigenous people.
- What makes a good anthem? Is *Advance Australia Fair* a good anthem? Why or why not?
- How could you write a new national anthem for Australia? What words and themes would it include?
- Some people think we should have a new national anthem. Think of some reasons why we should change our national anthem.

Activity

Advance Australia Fair

Read the Australian national anthem aloud to your students. Ask students to share their thoughts and feelings about the anthem, using the following questions as discussion starters. Record students' responses.

- How do you feel when listening to *Advance Australia Fair*?
- What images and symbols do you think of?
- What does the song tell you about Australia?
- Do you think it's a good anthem? Why or why not?

Further research

- What is the origin of *Advance Australia Fair*? Who wrote it and when was it first performed?
- When did it become Australia's national anthem?
- How has the song's lyrics changed over time?
- Research what makes a good national anthem.
- Look at other countries' national anthems. How are they similar or different?
- Learn the national anthem in your local Indigenous language. [Watch this video](#) for inspiration.

Activity

Changing the national anthem

Divide the classroom into small groups. Each group will choose an existing song that they think should become Australia's new national anthem. (Alternatively, challenge your class by asking students to write a new anthem).

- Why did you choose this song? Think about Australia's people, land, history and language.
- How does this song reflect our national identity?
- Are the lyrics easy to understand and remember? Is it a formal or informal song?
- How will you judge the entries? As a class determine what criteria you will use to judge the entries.
- Hold a classroom poll and collect the results.
- Plot the poll results on a graph. Which song was most popular? Display the results in a pie graph including percentages.
- Analyse the results. Did the winning entry get more than half of the votes or was it a close competition?

Activity

Students will investigate the issue of changing the Australian anthem and develop either a **persuasive text** or hold a **mini debate**.

Persuasive text

Students will explore the issue and develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: *'The Australian anthem should be changed'*. Students can use the information recorded on the mind map and their own research to help develop their argument. Encourage students to use a range of sources.

Provide students with the following structure to follow when completing this activity.

Structure

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this [Read Write Think persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

Mini Debate

- Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1-2-minute speech for a mini debate on the topic of changing the national anthem. One person will speak for the affirmative and the other will speak for the negative.
- Before students begin to construct their argument, ask them to record what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Students then research the topic to gain a greater understanding of the issue.
- Ask students to list their arguments in point form on paper (without their partner seeing them). When they have done this, ask them to choose the five best points that will form the basis for their debate.
- Students will write in point form, their debate on cards that fit into the palm of their hand. Their debate needs to have an introduction (introducing the topic), middle (three main points) and a conclusion



(restating their position). Students practise their speech and then present the mini debate to other students.

Guide for giving feedback

- Was the information clear and accurate?
- Were the arguments logical?
- Were the counter arguments accurate and relevant?
- Comments about the presentation style (tone of voice, body language, enthusiastic, convincing).

Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- Did my opinion change?
- What did you learn from this activity?

Useful Websites

BTN – Australian Anthem

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/australian-anthem/10527188>

National Archives of Australia

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs251.aspx>

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Australian National Anthem

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-anthem>