

Teacher Resource

History of Voting

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. Who were the suffragettes?
- 2. Which state was the first to give women the right to vote?
- 3. When did all Indigenous people get the right to vote in federal elections?
 - a. 1952
 - b. 1962
 - c. 1972
- 4. It's compulsory for everyone over the age of ______to vote.
- 5. Do you think the right to vote is important? Give reasons for your answer.

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN History of Voting story, hold a class discussion using the following discussion starters.

- What is voting?
- How old do you have to be in Australia to vote?
- Is voting compulsory?
- How has people's right to vote changed over the years?
- Have you ever voted? Think of different situations where you have been able to have your vote. For example, in the classroom with hands-up voting, at home in family decisions or at clubs voting for new members.
- Is voting important? Give reasons for your answer.

EPISODE 10

26th April 2022

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the history of voting in Australia and analyse significant events that have shaped Australia's system of voting.

CURRICULUM

Civics and Citizenship - Year 5

The key features of the electoral process in Australia.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 6 The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy.

History - 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: Glossary

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

VOTE	ELECTION	PARLIAMENT
SUFFRAGE	SUFFRAGETTE	COMPULSORY

Activity: History of Voting Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN History of Voting 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 learnt?	How 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.

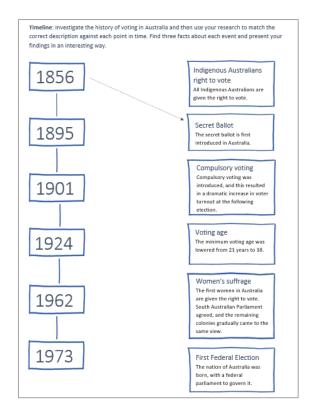
- Who were the suffragettes? Describe the suffragette movement.
- Imagine you a suffragette living in the late 1800s. Write a persuasive letter to your local government, write a newspaper article or write a petition explaining why women should be able to vote
- When were women first given the right to vote in Australia?
- When were Indigenous women given the right to vote in Australia?
- Who was the first woman elected as a member of parliament in Australia? Create a short biography of them.
- Many women around the world still do not have the right to vote. Find out where in the world women still do not have the vote and highlight on a world map.
- How would you feel not being able to vote because of colour, race, gender or financial status? Was this fair? Was this democratic? Why do you think the right to vote has changed over time?
- What is the secret ballot system of voting? When and why was it introduced? Why is the secret ballot important to Australia's voting system?

Activity: Timeline of voting

Students research the history of voting in Australia. Use the information they find to help match the dates to key events in Australia's history of voting. Complete the template at the end of this activity.

Students will then respond to one or more of the following questions:

- Find three interesting facts about each significant event.
- Imagine what it was like not being able to vote because you are a woman or because you are Indigenous. Write a diary entry explaining your lack of rights and how it feels not being able to vote. Students will use their research findings to support their writing.
- Which dates on the timeline do you think are especially significant? Why?



Activity: Visual Literacy

Below are photographs depicting significant events in Australia's history of voting. Students look at the images below or find your own images and then respond to the following questions:

- What is happening in the image?
- Where do you think it was taken?
- How do you think they might be feeling?
- Is there a message about democracy that comes across in the image? Explain.
- What question/s would you like to ask the people in the image?
- Create a caption for each image.

After you have responded to the above questions click on the link for each image to find out what is happening and compare to your responses.



Source of image



Source of image

Activity: BTN Women in Politics

Watch the <u>BTN Australian Women in Politics</u> story then answer the following questions:

- The South Australian Government was the first in the world to give women the right to run for election. True or false?
- 2. Who was Catherine Helen Spence?
- 3. In what year were the first women elected to Federal Parliament?
- 4. Who was Australia's first female prime minister?
- 5. Who was the first Indigenous woman to sit in parliament?
- 6. What did you learn watching the BTN story?



Activity: Quiz

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1. What is the voting age in Australia? A. 16	4. When was voting made compulsory for the Australian Parliament?	
B. 18	A. 1901	
C. 21	B. 1924	
	C. 1967	
2. Which state was the first to give women the vote?5. When did all Indigenous Australian		
A. ACT	get the right to vote in federal	
B. New South Wales	elections?	
C. South Australia	A. 1952	
	B. 1962	
3. Which state became the first to introduce compulsory voting?	C. 1972	
A. South Australia	6. Voting in Australia is compulsory.	
B. Queensland	A. True	

Quiz Answers: 1B, 2C, 3B, 4B, 5B, 6A

Useful Websites

C. Western Australia

- The Right to Vote MOAD
- History of Voting BTN
- Australian Women in Politics BTN
- <u>Australian voting history in action</u> AEC
- History of Voting game AEC

B. False

Timeline: Investigate the history of voting in Australia and then use your research to match the correct description against each point in time. Find three facts about each event and present your findings in an interesting way.

