# **Teacher Resource** Women's History

# Pocus Questions

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- 1. What Australian bank note does Edith Cowan feature on?
- 2. Complete the following sentence. Edith Cowan was the first Australian woman to serve as a member of
- 3. What rule did Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie help change?
- 4. What year did Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie participate in the **Olympic Games?**
- 5. Who was Evelyn Scott?
- 6. What was the 1967 Referendum?
- 7. What percentage of Australians voted 'yes' in the 1967 Referendum?
- 8. What war did Louise Mack, the first female Australian war correspondent, report on?
- 9. How did Louise Mack escape Germany?
- 10. What did you learn watching the BTN story? Make a list of 3 facts.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers please note that this document contains images of deceased Indigenous people.

# **C** Activity

### Note taking

Students will take notes while watching the BTN Women's History Month story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect and organise the information into three categories. Students may want to watch the story again or look at the transcript on the BTN website to assist them with this activity. What information was ...?

- Positive •
- Negative
- Interesting

# **C** Activity

### Personal response

Write a personal response to the Women's History Month story. Leave a comment on the BTN Women's History Month story page. Choose a woman featured in the BTN story and complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- ... is famous because... •
- It was interesting to learn... •
- It was surprising to learn that...
- Five words that I would use to describe...

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Episode 9

## 🕞 Key Learning

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the lives and achievements of prominent Australian women.

## Curriculum

HASS – Year 4 Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and

#### HASS - Years 5 & 6

issues.

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

Present ideas, findings, viewpoints and conclusions in a range of texts and modes that incorporate source materials, digital and non-digital representations and disciplinespecific terms and conventions.

#### HASS - Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

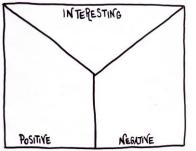
Present ideas, findings, viewpoints, explanations and conclusions in a range of texts and modes that incorporate source materials, citations, graphic representations and discipline-specific terms, conventions and concepts.

#### History - Year 6

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

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







### **Famous Australian Women**

Students will choose a well-known Australian woman to research and write a biography about. They can choose one of the women featured in the BTN story (see images below) or someone else. There is a list some prominent Australian women in the biography section in this activity.



Fanny Durack & Mina Wylie Source of image



Edith Cowan Source of image



Evelyn Scott Source of image



Louise Mack Source of image

## What is a biography?

Before students begin to construct their biographies, ask them what they already know about biographical writing. Below are some discussion starters:

- What does a biography tell us about a person? •
- Where can you look to find information for your biographical writing? It could include the internet, • newspaper articles, magazine articles and interviews, other biographies, historical books or television interviews. Why is it important to use more than one source of information?
- What makes a biography interesting? For example, key information and facts, a timeline of events, • photographs, illustrations and quotes.

### Create a biography

Using the Biography Organiser template at the end of this activity students will record information about the woman they have chosen. Some other possibilities of Australian women to research include:

Dame Roma Mitchell





- Catherine Helen Spence
- Miles Franklin
- Nancy Bird
- Dame Nellie Melba
- Quentin Bryce

Students can use the following as a guide for their biography research:

- Where are they from? Locate using Google Maps.
- When were they born? Describe their family life growing up.
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What were their challenges?
- How do we recognise their achievements?
- How have they made an impact on people's lives?
- How did they change our understanding of the world?
- What do you admire about them?

Further investigation

- Imagine you could sit down and talk to them. What questions would you ask about their life and achievements?
- Sketch a portrait of the woman you have chosen. Explore and experiment with different techniques and media to produce a portrait.

# \* Activity

Watch the BTN NAIDOC Indigenous Women story and then answer the following questions:

- Rosalie Kunoth-Monks is best known for being the first Indigenous women to have a lead role in a film. True or false?
- 2. Why are the songs that Fanny Cochrane Smith recorded on wax cylinders really important?
- 3. Gladys Elphick was a Kaurna and Ngadjuri woman. Locate the traditional lands of Kaurna and Ngadjuri people on a map of Australia.
- 4. How did the Aboriginal Community Centre, that Gladys Elphick set up, help Aboriginal people?
- 5. Who was Truganini?
- 6. What did you learn watching the BTN story? Make a list of three facts.

Watch the BTN Women at Work story and then answer the following questions:

- 1. What changes started to happen for women in the late 1800s?
- 2. Which state was the first to give women the vote?
- 3. How did the Second World War change the role of women?
- 4. Describe work for women in the 1950s.
- 5. How did women fight for their rights in the 1960s and 1970s?
- 6. How has your thinking changed since watching the *Women at Work* story?







Watch the BTN Gender Equality story then answer the following questions:

- 1. Describe what life was like for women in the 1800s.
- 2. What does suffrage mean?
- 3. Who were the suffragettes?
- 4. What did they do to change things for women?
- 5. Which state was one of the first in the world to give women the right to vote?
- 6. How did war change the role of women in society?
- 7. What were some important changes for women in the 1960s?



# **Activity**

## Women's History Quiz

- 1. Which famous Australian woman is on the \$50 note?
  - a) Mary Gilmore
  - b) Edith Cowan
  - c) Queen Elizabeth
- 2. Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie were the first two women to represent Australia in the Olympics in which sport?
  - a) Rowing
  - b) Athletics
  - c) Swimming
- 3. Who was Australia's first female Governor-General?
  - a) Quentin Bryce
  - b) Julia Gillard
  - c) Edith Cowan
- 4. Louise Mack was Australia's first female...
  - a) War correspondent
  - b) Politician
  - c) Olympian
- 5. Australia was the first country in the world to give women the right to vote.
  - a) True
  - b) False

Answers: 1 b, 2 c, 3 b, 4 a, 5 b false. It was the second



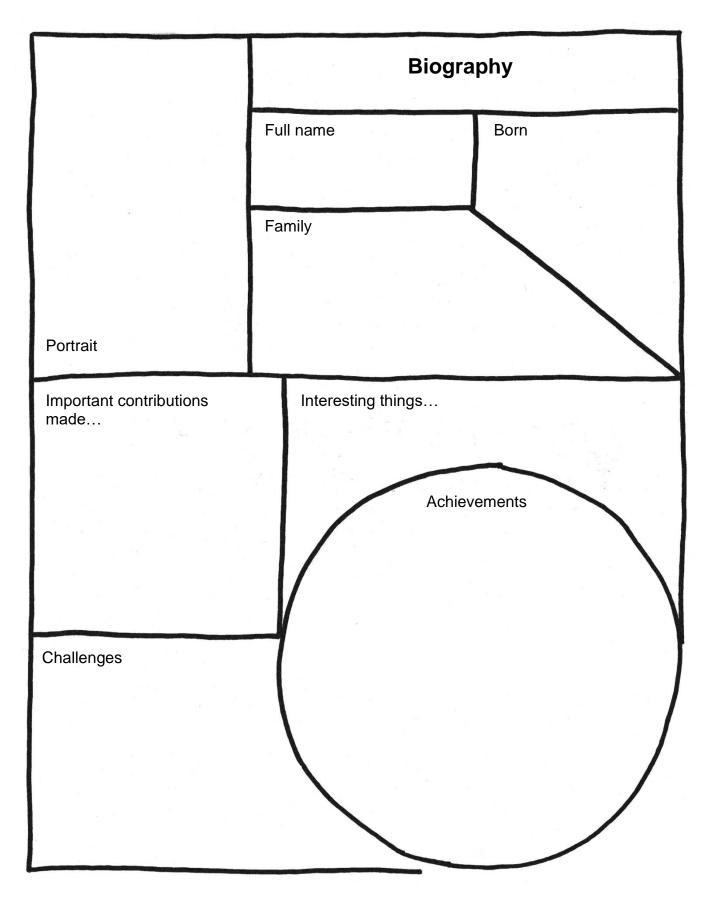
Royal Australian Historical Society – Women's History Month <a href="https://www.rahs.org.au/womens-history-month/">https://www.rahs.org.au/womens-history-month/</a>

NAIDOC Indigenous Women – BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/naidoc-indigenous-women/10488838

Women at Work – BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/women-at-work/10523414

Gender Equality – BTN https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/gender-equality/10530280







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