



Teacher Resource

Royal Visit Reaction

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. Is Australia a...
 - a. Constitutional monarchy
 - b. Republic
 - c. Absolute monarchy
2. Who is our Head of State?
3. What year was the last referendum held in which Australians were allowed to vote for a republic?
 - a. 1989
 - b. 1999
 - c. 2009
4. Why do some people think Australia should become a republic?
5. Do you think Australia should become a republic? Give reasons for your answer.

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Royal Visit Reaction story. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What is a constitutional monarchy?
- What is a republic?
- What would need to happen for Australia to become a republic?
- What is a referendum?
- What would change if Australia became a republic?
- What are the pros and cons of Australia becoming a republic? Make a T Chart.
- Do you think Australia should become a republic? Give reasons for your answer.
- What questions do you have about this story?



EPISODE 30

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn what a constitutional monarchy is and develop an argument for or against Australia becoming a republic.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 6

Key figures, events and ideas that led to Australia's Federation and Constitution.

English – Year 6

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience.

HASS – Year 7

Sequence information about events, developments, periods and phenomena using a variety of discipline-appropriate formats and conventions including chronological frameworks that use dating conventions.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 7

The process for constitutional change through a referendum.

Activity: Glossary

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

CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY	REPUBLIC	REFERENDUM
HEAD OF STATE	COLONISATION	CONSTITUTION

Activity: Republic Research

Students will develop their own question/s to research about what a constitutional monarchy is and what it means for Australia to become a republic. Below are some questions to get students started.

Inquiry questions

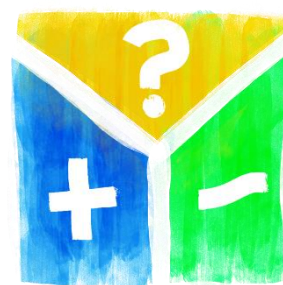
- What is the difference between an absolute monarchy and a constitutional monarchy?
- Who is Australia's Head of State? Why are they Australia's Head of State and what is their role in Australia?
- Which countries are part of the Commonwealth? Plot the countries on a world map.
- Why is Australia a part of the Commonwealth? Learn more on the [PEO website](#).
- Do you think Australia should still be a part of the Commonwealth? Why or why not?
- How would Australia's government change if it became a republic?
- How could becoming a republic affect Australia's relationships with other Commonwealth nations?
- What is a referendum and why is it necessary to change the Constitution?

Further investigation

Who would you choose as our Head of State? Give reasons for your choice.

Activity: Plus, minus or interesting

As a class discuss the concept of Australia becoming a republic. Students will identify and explain the values that a constitutional monarchy represents for Australians. Use the plus, minus, interesting chart to evaluate the issue, compare advantages and disadvantages and make decisions. In the plus column enter all the positive elements, in the minus column enter all the negative elements and in the third column enter the elements that cannot be classified. A scoring system can be added to this chart to inform decision-making.



Activity: Should Australia become a republic?

Students will explore the issue of Australia becoming a republic and then develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: 'Australia should become a republic'. Students need to weigh up the pros and cons of the issue then write a short persuasive argument stating why Australia should or should not become a republic.

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.

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.

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?

Activity: Public Opinion

Students will interview a range of people to find out the different attitudes and feelings people have towards the monarchy and whether Australia should become a republic. Students will use the following as a guide during the interview process:

- Think about who you will interview, for example, family and/or friends.
- Prepare for your interview by writing some questions that you will ask your interviewee. Write open-ended questions. Open-ended questions have no right or wrong answer and can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'.
- Find out what the monarchy means to them.
- Ask if they think Australia should become a republic and ask them to explain their answer.
- Think about ways to record peoples' responses – written, audio or video.

Activity: Class Poll

Hold a poll in your class. Students will conduct their own opinion poll on the issue of whether Australia should become a republic. Working in groups, students will need to decide who their sample group will be and how many people will be polled. What method will they use to conduct the poll? (Face to face interviews or written responses). Ask students to graph the opinion poll results and then reflect on the results.



Useful Websites

- [The Royals arrive in Australia](#) – Newsbreak
- [Referendums and plebiscites](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [The Constitution](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Why are we a constitutional monarchy?](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [What is the role of the King in Australia's system of government?](#) – PEO