



Teacher Resource

Immigration Debate

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. As a class discuss the issues raised in the BTN story.
2. What is net migration?
3. When was net migration at its highest in Australia?
4. What would the Federal Opposition do about net migration if they won the next election?
 - a. Reduce net migration
 - b. Increase net migration
5. What questions do you have about this story? Compare with a classmate.

Activity: What is migration?

Discuss the BTN Immigration Debate story as a class. What issues were raised. Clarify students' understanding of what migration is. Come up with a class definition.

Migration is...

Introduce students to the idea of push and pull factors.

Push factors - These are things that may encourage or force someone to leave a place. For example,

- war
- lack of jobs
- natural disaster
- persecution
- lack of safety

Pull factors - These are things that may attract someone to another place. For example,

- safety
- employment
- education
- family
- better opportunities
- lifestyle

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KEY LEARNING

Students will understand what migration means and identify different reasons why people migrate. They will also investigate Australia's migration history.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

The role of a significant individual or group, including First Nations Australians and those who migrated to Australia, in the development of events in an Australian colony.

HASS – Year 6

The motivation of people migrating to Australia since Federation and throughout the 20th century, their stories and effects on Australian society, including migrants from the Asia region.

Australia's interconnections with other countries and how these change people and places.

HASS – Years 5 and 6

Develop questions to investigate people, events, developments, places and systems.

Activity: Migration Key Vocabulary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Migration story. Here are some words to get them started. Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word then check these against the dictionary definition.

Key Word	Meaning
Migration	
Migrant	
Immigration	
Emigration	
Push factor	
Pull factor	

Activity: Waves of Migration

Australia has been shaped by many different groups of people who have migrated here at different times throughout history. These different periods are known as the **waves of migration**. Choose one or more waves of migration and research them in more detail. Find out who migrated to Australia, where they came from, why they came, and how their arrival helped shape Australian society.

Periods of migration

British colonisation

Gold rushes

Federation and the early 1900s

Post-World War II migration

Migration from Asia and other regions – late

20th century onwards

Migration today

Questions to investigate

When did it happen?

Where did people come from?

Why did people migrate?

Where did they settle?

Who were the people who migrated?

How did migration affect Australian communities?

What is one interesting fact you discovered?

After students have completed their waves of migration research, ask them to reflect on the following question: *How has migration helped shape the Australia we know today?*

Students share their responses in small groups or as a class.

Activity: A suitcase of stories

Ask students to imagine they are moving to a new country and create a **Migration Suitcase**. Inside the suitcase, they choose **five objects** they would take with them. For each object, explain:

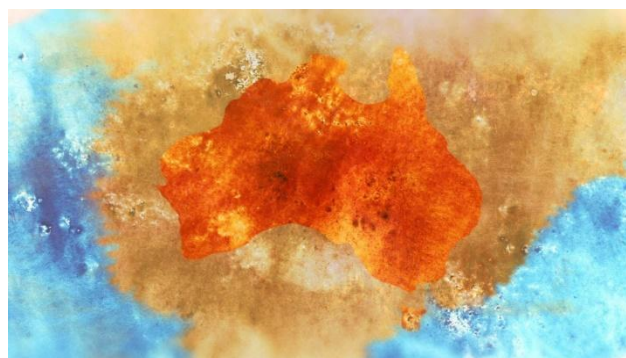
- What is it?
- Why is it important?
- What does it tell us about you?
- What memories or connections does it represent?



What might a migrant choose to take with them that cannot fit inside a suitcase? Suggestions could include; language, memories, traditions, stories, music, recipes, beliefs, friendships and family connections.

Activity: Creating a Nation: Modern Immigration Stories

ABC Education's - *Creating a Nation: Modern Immigration Stories* tells the experiences of six first generation migrant Australians. Each migration story includes a video and questions for students to discuss and respond to. [Explore the interactive resource](#)



Useful Websites

- [Australia's Migration](#) – BTN
- [Australia's Waves of Migration](#) – BTN
- [Creating a Nation: Modern Immigration stories](#) – ABC Education
- [Chinese Migration](#) – BTN
- [Refugees and Migrants](#) – BTN