



Teacher Resource

Nova Peris

Women's History Month

Focus Questions

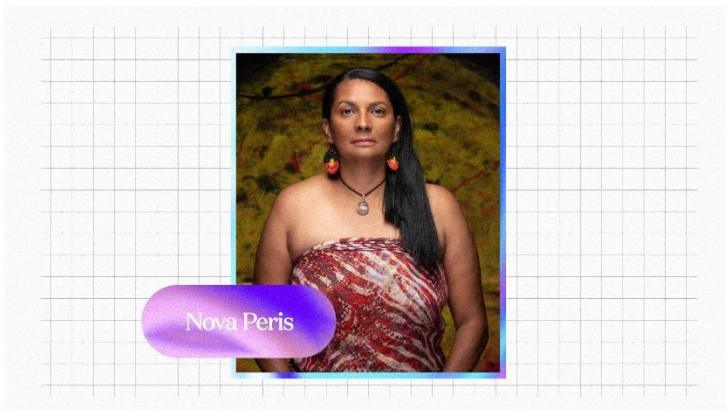
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Which sport did Nova Peris win a gold medal for at the 1996 Summer Olympics?
2. What sport did Nova Peris win gold medals for at the 1998 Commonwealth Games?
3. Nova Peris was the first Indigenous woman elected to federal Parliament. True or false?
4. What did you learn about Nova Peris?
5. Imagine you could sit down and talk to Nova Peris. What question/s would you ask about her life and achievements?

Activity: Personal Response

Respond to the BTN Nova Peris story as a class. Students will complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- Nova Peris is an important Australian because...
- It was interesting to learn...
- These are five words that I would use to describe Nova Peris ...
- This story made me feel...
- It is important to celebrate Nova Peris because...



EPISODE 8

25 March 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about Nova Peris, a trailblazer for Indigenous Australians in sport and politics.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3 and 4

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations.

HASS – Year 5 and 6

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

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

History – Year 6

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

HASS – Year 7

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

Activity: Research and Document






5 W's

Students will choose one key event in Nova Peris' life and research as much as they can about it. They will write a summary on the key event which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?



Timeline

Students will research and document the story of Nova Peris, to teach future generations about her life, her achievements, and her challenges. They will use a timeline to document their findings. Below is a timeline highlighting some of Nova Peris' achievements. Visit the [Nova Peris website](#) to read and learn more about her biography and achievements.

<p>1996</p> <p>Nova Peris wins gold medal with the Hockeyroos during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.</p>  <p>ABC News</p>	<p>1997</p> <p>In 1997 Nova was awarded Young Australian of the Year.</p>  <p>Nova Peris</p>	<p>1998</p> <p>Nova Peris won gold medals in 200m and 4x100m relay at Kuala Lumpur at the Commonwealth Games. Medal of the Order of Australia recipient.</p>  <p>Nova Peris</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>Nova Peris elected as first Indigenous woman in Federal Parliament.</p>  <p>ABC News</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>Nova Peris was honoured with a 2.6m Bronze Statue Unveiled in Federation Square, Melbourne.</p>  <p>National Indigenous Times</p>
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KWLH

The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on Nova Peris including her achievements in sport and advocacy for Indigenous rights. After watching the BTN Nova Peris story, students will develop their own question to research in more detail.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	How will I find out?

Activity: "Firsts"

"Firsts" refers to individuals who were the first to accomplish a specific feat or achieve a particular milestone. Nova Peris is a trailblazer for Indigenous Australians in sport and politics. She is the first Indigenous Australian to win an Olympic gold medal and the first female Indigenous federal parliamentarian.

What other Australian women have been the first to accomplish a specific feat or achieve a particular milestone? As a class brainstorm and make a list of Australian women that are trailblazers.



In 1992 Cathy Freeman became the **FIRST** Australian Aboriginal person to compete in the Olympics. Watch the [BTN story](#) to learn more.



Dame Nellie Melba was the **FIRST** Australian to achieve international recognition as a classical musician. Watch the [BTN story](#) to learn more.



In 1958 Lowitja O'Donoghue became the **FIRST** Indigenous woman to work at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Watch the [BTN story](#) to learn more.

In small groups students will respond to the following "What have people that are trailblazers got in common?" Make a list of traits.



Direct your students to the [BTN](#) website to find more stories of trailblazing Australian women who've made an extraordinary contribution to society, including:

- [Mary Gilmore](#) – Australian poet, journalist, social activist
- [Elizabeth Kenny](#) – Nurse who developed a new way of treating polio.
- [Nancy Bird Walton](#) – Aviation pioneer
- [Dorothy Hill](#) – Scientist
- [Edith Cowan](#) – Social reformer and politician
- [Faith Bandler](#) – Civil rights activist
- [Evonne Goolagong Cawley](#) – Tennis legend

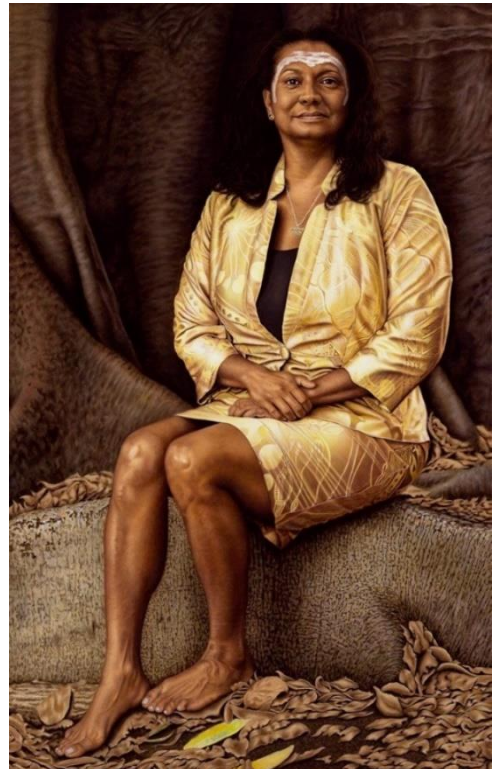
Or visit the [ABC Fierce Girls](#) website to learn more about Australian women who dare to do things differently. From athletes to aviators, scientists to spies. From the deep blue sea to the dark, black skies. Students will choose one trailblazing Australian woman they find inspiring and research and record information about the person. Some possible areas of research include:

- When and where were they born? Describe their family life growing up.
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What inspired or motivated them?
- What are some of their values?
- What were some challenges they faced?
- How did they make an impact on people's lives?
- What do you admire about them?

Activity: Visual Literacy

Students will examine and analyse the portrait of Nova Peris (to the right). The painting, by Dr Jandamarra Cadd, depicts Ms Peris as she presented herself on the day of her first speech to the Senate. Encourage students to provide detailed and thoughtful responses based on their analysis of the painting.

- What do you see in this image?
- What significant moment or event does the image relate to?
- When and where was the portrait made?
- Who painted the portrait?
- Who is the portrait of? How do you think they might be feeling?
- How does the image make you feel?
- What question/s would you like to ask the people in the image?
- Create a caption for the portrait.



Portrait of Nova Maree Peris OAM
(Source: [Parliament of Australia](#))

Useful Websites

- [Nova Peris](#) – Australia Olympic Committee
- [Nova Peris — the girl who won gold in two sports then got elected to parliament](#) – ABC Fierce Girls
- [Nova Peris](#) – National Museum Australia
- [Nova Maree Peris OAM](#) – Parliament of Australia
- [Nova Peris](#)