



Teacher Resource

Native Title

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. What is native title?
2. What does terra nullius mean?
3. Where was Eddie Mabo from? Find on a map.
4. What do Traditional Owners have to prove to get native title?
5. What did you learn watching this story?

Activity: Comprehension

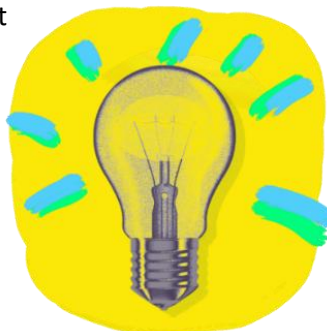
After watching the BTN Native Title story students can answer one or more of the following comprehension questions, for example:

- What are some keywords from the BTN story?
- What did you learn from the story? Write a summary.
- What is the purpose of this news story? To entertain, persuade, inform, explain or describe?
- Why do you think BTN covered this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Native Title story. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- Why is Country important to First Nations peoples?
- Who was Eddie Mabo?
- Where was Eddie Mabo from?
- What was Eddie Mabo fighting for?
- What is native title?
- What does the term 'terra nullius' mean?
- Why was the Mabo decision important?



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KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of native title and the significance of the Mabo decision.

CURRICULUM

Significant events, symbols and emblems that are important to Australia's identity and diversity, and how they are celebrated, commemorated or recognised in Australia, including Australia Day, Anzac Day, NAIDOC Week, National Sorry Day, Easter, Christmas, and other religious and cultural festivals.

HASS – Year 4

The diversity of First Nations Australians, their social organisation and their continuous connection to Country/Place.

HASS – Year 5 and 6

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

This document contains the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

Activity: Key Words

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

EDDIE MABO	NATIVE TITLE	TERRA NULLIUS
CROWN LAND	FIRST NATIONS	HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

Activity: Native Title Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Native Title story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

Research

- What is terra nullius and why do you think the British Government declared Australia to be terra nullius?
- What was the Mabo decision?
- What is native title?
- Why is native title important to First Nations peoples?
- How did the Meriam people challenge terra nullius?
- Mabo wasn't just fighting for the Meriam people. Why was Mabo an important case for First Nations peoples?
- Investigate Mer Island in more detail and create a profile of the island. Use the following questions to guide research:
 - Where is Mer Island?
 - Mer Island is also known as...
 - How big is the island?
 - Describe the landscape of the island.
 - What language do the people of Mer Island speak?

Further Investigation – Eddie Mabo

- Create a timeline of important events in Eddie Mabo's life.
- What are some of the key events in his life? Write a summary for one key event which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- Create a portrait of Eddie Mabo. Explore and experiment with different techniques and media to produce a portrait.
- Write a letter to Eddie Mabo thanking him for his achievements.

Useful Websites

- [Native Title](#) - BTN
- [Mabo Legacy](#) – BTN
- [Native Title](#) – Australian Museum
- [Mabo Decision](#) – National Museum of Australia