



Teacher Resource

Democracy Day

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 does the word democracy mean?
2. What type of government does Australia have?
3. How does preferential voting work in Australia?
4. Why is it important that people have a say in how their country is governed?
5. Name three things you learnt from the Democracy Day story.

Activity: Class Discussion

Before watching the story...

Before watching the BTN Democracy Day story hold a class discussion about democracy using the following prompt...What comes to mind when you think of the word *democracy*?

While watching the story...

While watching the story students will listen for words, people, ideas and events that are connected to democracy. They will write down any words or phrases they hear or recognise.

After watching the story...

After watching the BTN Democracy Day story, students will complete the following sentence starters:

- *"I think democracy means..."*
(Think about people, places, actions, rights, responsibilities and events associated with democracy)
- *"Democracy is important because..."*
- *"We celebrate Democracy Day because..."*



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KEY LEARNING

Students will develop their understanding of democracy by identifying words, people, ideas and events connected to democracy.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

The key values and features of Australia's democracy, including elections, and the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives.

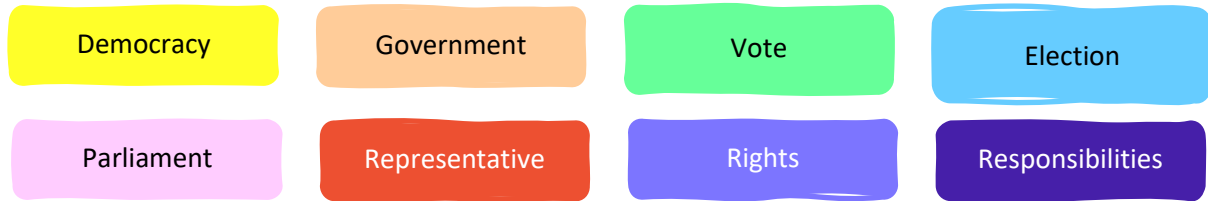
HASS – Year 7

The key institutions of Australia's system of government, how it is based on the Westminster system, and the key values and beliefs of Western democracies.

Significant individuals, events and ideas that led to Australia's Federation, the Constitution and democratic system of government.

Activity: Key Words

After watching the BTN Democracy Day story students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the topic.



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.

Further activities for students:

- Write a classroom definition for democracy.
- Students will add to their glossary by downloading the transcript for the BTN Democracy Day story and highlight all the words that relate to the topic. Additional words: freedom, equality, suffrage, Australian Constitution, government and Federation.
- Become an etymologist and study the origin and history of the word *democracy*. Explore the word's origins and meaning. Record your information source.
- What are some examples of democracy in your everyday lives?

Students will develop their understanding of democracy by identifying words, people, ideas and events connected to democracy. As a class brainstorm words associated with each category, drawing on your glossary of key words.

Democracy	
Words connected to democracy...	People involved in democracy...
Ideas about democracy...	Events related to democracy...

Activity: Compare and Contrast

Students will investigate the different ways that a country can be governed and then compare and contrast the different types of government. Students will start by exploring what the most popular type of government is in the modern world and then investigate other types of government. Students will then compare and contrast two or more types of government.

Students will identify similarities and differences between the different types of government and organise the information they find using a T-chart. Students can use the following to guide their investigation.

	Democracy	Monarchy
What is the origin and meaning of the word?		
Who holds the power?		
How are leaders chosen?		
Do citizens vote?		
What rights and freedoms do citizens have?		
Who makes the laws?		
Can citizens change their leaders?		
What are the advantages of this system?		
What are some possible disadvantages?		
What countries use this system?		

Further Investigation

- What is the most popular type of government in the modern world?
- What are some values in a democratic society? Make a list. How do you apply democratic values in your everyday life?
- Explore how these categories can overlap, for example, Australia is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.

Activity: Young People getting Involved

Watch one or more of the following BTN stories to learn more about how Australia's young people are getting involved in democracy



[Junior Parliament](#)

These kids are getting an up-close look at the political process by taking part in the YMCA's Junior Parliament program.



[Australia's Youngest Senator](#)

(BTN High)

Meet Australia's youngest senator to be elected to Australian Parliament.



[Young Mayor](#) (BTN High)

We meet Mohamed Semra, who's become a mayor at just 27.



[Australia's UN Youth Representative 2025](#) (BTN High)

Meet Satara who was Australia's Youth Representative to the UN for 2025.



[Young Mayors Program](#)

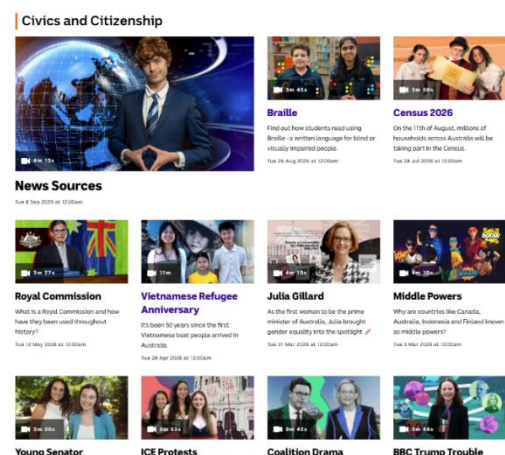
This program gives young people a bigger say on issues that affect their daily lives by letting them elect their own mayors.

BTN Civics & Citizenship stories

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on the theme of civics and citizenship. After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions

To find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package.

[Link to collection of BTN Civics & Citizenship stories](#)



Useful Websites

- [International Day of Democracy](#) – United Nations
- [Defining Democracy](#) – Museum of Australian Democracy
- [Special: Democracy](#) – BTN
- [Democracy](#) – Parliamentary Education Office