

Teacher Resource

Mabo Legacy

Focus Questions

1. Summarise the BTN *Mabo Legacy* story.
2. Complete this sentence. The Island of Mer is also known as _____ Island.
3. The island is between Queensland and which country? Find using Google Maps.
4. What does terra nullius mean?
5. Why did Eddie Mabo go to court in the 1980s?
6. What decision did the high court make in 1992 about the Island of Mer?
7. What is native title?
8. Give an example of how native title recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders rights.
9. What state/territory are the Ngaliwurru and Nungali people from?
10. What questions do you have after watching the BTN story?

Activity

Class Discussion

After watching the BTN *Mabo Legacy* story hold a class discussion. Here are some discussion starters:

- Who was Eddie Mabo?
- Where was Eddie Mabo from?
- What is native title?
- Why was the Mabo decision important?
- What is the High Court of Australia?
- What was Eddie Mabo fighting for?
- What questions do you have after watching the BTN *Mabo Legacy* story?



Glossary

Students will develop a glossary of words and terms that relate to the BTN *Mabo Legacy* story. Below are some words to get them started. Students will add words and meanings to their glossary as they come across unfamiliar words throughout their research.

Native title	High Court	Terra nullius
Torres Strait Islands	Crown land	Reconciliation Week

Key Learning

Students will learn more about Eddie Mabo and create a biography about him.

Curriculum

History – Year 3

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 4

The differences between 'rules' and 'laws', why laws are important and how they affect the lives of people, including experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

History - Year 6

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children.

Define: What do I want to know?

Key questions to research

Students can choose one or more of the following questions or come up with their own:

- What was the Mabo decision?
- What is native title?
- Why is native title important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?
- Mabo wasn't just fighting for the Meriam people. Why was Mabo an important case for Australian Indigenous people?
- What is terra nullius and why do you think the British Government declared Australia to be terra nullius?

Locate: Where do I find the information?

What resources will help answer my questions? (Internet, people, resource centre, organisations, print). Discuss with students what a reliable source is.

Select: What information is important for the investigation?

Students may need support to sort through and select relevant information.

Organise: How do I make sense of the information?

Students can organise their research by creating main headings from their questions. Write each heading on a separate piece of paper. Record the information found for each question.

Present: How do we let others know about this information?

Each group needs to discuss then decide on the best way to present the information. Possibilities could include:

- A 'Did You Know' Facts sheet
- Oral presentation
- [Prezi](#) presentation
- Create an infographic using [Canva](#)
- Create a website using [Wix](#)

Evaluate: What have we learnt?

Each group reflects on what they have learnt about native title and the Mabo decision during their investigation. Students will reflect on their learning and respond to the following.

- What I learned...
- What I found surprising...
- What I would do differently next time...

Activity

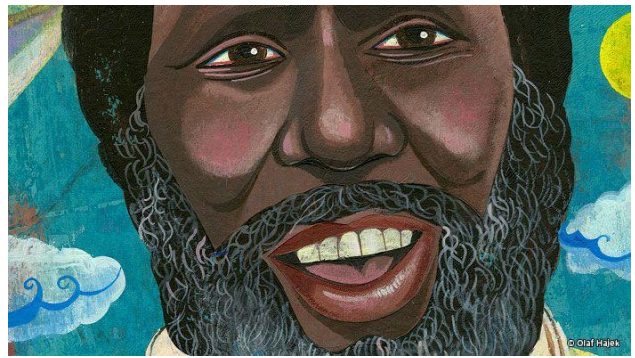
Eddie Mabo

Before students begin to construct their biographies, hold a class discussion to find out what they already know about biographical writing. Below are some discussion starters:

- What does a biography tell us about a person?
- Where can you look to find information for your biographical writing? It could include the internet, newspaper articles, magazine articles and interviews, other biographies, historical books or television interviews. Why is it important to use more than one source of information?
- What makes a biography interesting? For example, key information and facts, a timeline of events, photographs, illustrations and quotes.

Using the biography worksheet at the end of this activity, students will find and record information about Eddie Mabo. Some possible areas of research include:

- Where was Eddie Mabo from? Locate using Google Maps.
- When was he born? Describe his family life growing up.
- What were some of Eddie Mabo's achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- How do we recognise his achievements?
- What were some of the challenges he faced?
- How has Eddie Mabo made an impact on people's lives?
- What do you admire about Eddie Mabo?



Further investigation

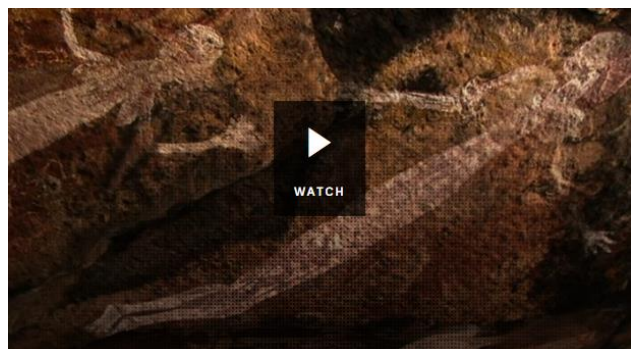
- Imagine you could sit down and talk to Eddie Mabo. What questions would you ask about his life and achievements?
- Create a portrait of Eddie Mabo. Explore and experiment with different techniques and media to produce a portrait.

Activity

Connection to Country

Students will explore in more depth Indigenous Australian's connection to their land. Hold a class discussion to find out what students already know about this connection.

Watch the BTN [Native Title](#) story. What does it tell us about the strong connection Indigenous Australians have to the land and the importance of the Mabo decision?



Useful Websites

ABC News – Mabo 25 years on: How much do we know about the man behind the legend?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-03/eddie-mabo-the-man-behind-the-legend/8501266>

BTN – Mabo Day

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/mabo-day/10530494>

BTN Native Title

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/native-title/10528268>

Reconciliation Australia – Eddie Koiki Mabo

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Lets-Talk-Mabo.pdf>

Biography – Eddie Mabo

Full name

Born

Family

Portrait of Eddie

Important contributions Eddie made...

Interesting things about Eddie...

Eddie's achievements