



Teacher Resource

What is a Minister?

Focus Questions

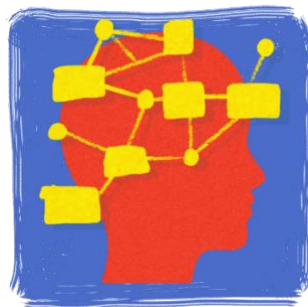
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is a Cabinet in parliament?
2. Members of Cabinet are called _____.
3. Who chooses the members of Cabinet?
4. What does it mean to 'shuffle' a Cabinet?
5. Ministers are given an area to look after. Give three examples of different departments.

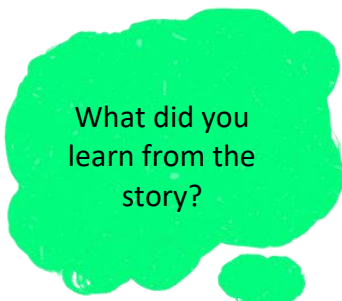
Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN What is a Minister story, hold a class discussion using the following discussion starters.

- What is a minister?
- Give an example of one Australian minister and their portfolio.
- What is a Cabinet?
- What is a Cabinet shuffle?
- Think of three questions you have about the BTN story.



Students can use a mind map to record their ideas!



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KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the roles and responsibilities of ministers in the Australian Government.

CURRICULUM

Civics and Citizenship – Year 5

The key features of the electoral process in Australia.

The roles and responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 6

The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 7

Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australia's democracy.

Develop a range of questions to investigate Australia's political and legal systems.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN What is a Minister? story. Here are some words to get them started.

MINISTER	CABINET	FRONTBENCHER
PORTFOLIO	BILL	EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

Further activities for students:

- Add to your glass glossary by downloading the transcript for the BTN story and highlight all the words that relate to the topic. For example, Cabinet shuffle, inner Cabinet, outer Cabinet, assistant ministers and policy. Visit the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) [glossary](#) and browse or search the meanings of key parliamentary terms.
- What is the difference between a minister and a shadow minister?
- Why is a Cabinet called a Cabinet? Explore the origin of the term Cabinet.
- Choose one word/term from your glossary. Find a definition for the word and explore its meaning in more detail. Explain the meaning of the word or term to your classmates. Use examples to help explain the word's meaning.

Activity: Research inquiry

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on the topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

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

Questions to research

Students will develop their own question/s to research about ministers and their roles and responsibilities. Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- What is a minister? Write a definition and add it to your class glossary of parliamentary terms.
- How are ministers chosen? How many ministers are there?
- What is the role of a minister? Choose one minister in the Australian Government to explore in more detail and highlight their area of responsibility. Has this minister introduced a [bill](#) into the Australian Parliament? Describe.
- What is a portfolio? Make a list of the different portfolios that ministers are responsible for.

- Why are ministers called frontbenchers? Find a seating plan of the House of Representatives and the Senate and highlight where the frontbenchers sit.
- How many ministers sit in the House of Representatives and how many sit in the Senate?
- What is the role of the Cabinet? What does the Cabinet Room look like?
- What is Question Time?
- What is a shadow minister? Explain their role.
- What does a shuffle in politics mean? Give 2 examples of recent changes in the Cabinet. Visit the ABC News to find out [Who's in and who's out after Albanese's ministry reshuffle](#).

Activity: Profile

In this activity students will understand the structure of Australia's federal government by exploring the current Ministry List, selecting a minister to research, and presenting their findings.

Provide students with copies of Australia's current Ministry List (hardcopy or [online](#)). Analyse the list as a class, responding to these questions.

- Do you recognise any of the minister's names? Which ones?
- What are some examples of ministerial portfolios?
- Are there any ministers that are responsible for more than one portfolio? Give an example.

Your students' task is to create a Canva project about one minister, responding to the following areas of research.

Research

Students will use the internet to find information about their chosen minister and their portfolio, including:

- The minister's name and position.
- The department or portfolio they are responsible for.
- Key responsibilities of the portfolio.
- Find a recent news article about the minister and any significant actions related to their portfolio.
- Interesting facts – 2 x 'Interesting Facts' and 2 x 'Did You Know?'

Present your findings in a Canva project. Include images with captions and a bibliography.

Oral Presentation

Students will write a 90-second speech, speaking in 'first person'. They will imagine it is their first day as a minister and will be giving their first speech in parliament. They will introduce themselves and their portfolio and discuss a current issue related to their portfolio. They will talk about their aspirations and goals as well as any challenges.

Visit this PEO resource for Classroom Activities on [First Speeches](#).

Consider running a mini-Question Time in class. Visit the PEO website for tips on how to run your class [Question Time](#).

Useful Websites

- [Ministers and Shadow Ministers](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [What is a minister and what do they do?](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Government Ministers](#) – BTN
- [Ministry List](#) – Australian Government
- [Current Ministry List](#) – Parliament of Australia
- [Special: Civics and Citizenship](#) – BTN
- [Frontbenchers and backbenchers](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Cabinet](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Who's in and who's out after Albanese's ministry reshuffle?](#) – ABC News