

## Teacher Resource

Episode 4 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

# **Australian Women in Politics**

# **Q** Focus Questions

- 1. Before watching the BTN story, make a list of Australian women in politics.
- 2. In pairs, discuss the *Australian Women in Politics* story and record the main points of the discussion.
- 3. How many years ago did women not have the right to vote?
- 4. The South Australian Government was the first in the world to give women the right to run for election. True or false?
- 5. Who was Catherine Helen Spence?
- 6. In what year were the first women elected to Federal Parliament?
  - a. 1902
  - b. 1943
  - c. 1980
- 7. Who was Australia's first female prime minister?
- 8. Who was the first Indigenous woman to sit in parliament?
- 9. What was surprising about this story?
- 10. What did you learn watching the BTN story?

# **☆** Activity

#### Class discussion

After watching the BTN *Women in Politics* story hold a class discussion. Here are some discussion starters:

- · How did you feel after watching the story?
- What surprised you about the story?
- · What did the video make you wonder?
- List some facts that you learnt from this story.
- Is it important to see female politicians in parliament? Why?
- Think of three questions you have about the BTN story.

# **Activity**

#### Glossarv

Students will develop a glossary of terms that relate to women in politics. Below are some key terms and concepts to get you started:

suffrage	suffragette	parliament
House of Representatives	Senate	equality

# Key Learning

Students will learn more about the suffrage movement in Australia and significant political milestones for Australian women.

## @ 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.

#### 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.





## Suffragette movement

Students will develop an understanding of the suffragette movement and then present their findings in an interesting way.

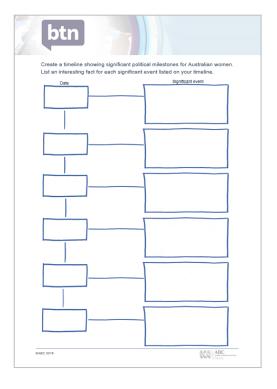
- What does suffrage mean? Find a dictionary meaning.
- Describe the suffragette movement in Australia.
- Imagine you are a suffragette living in the late 1800s. Write a persuasive letter to your local government, write a newspaper article or start a petition explaining why women should be able to vote.

# **☆** Activity

### **Women in Politics Timeline**

Students create a timeline showing significant political milestones for Australian women. Use the timeline template at the end of this activity to record key dates and milestones. Students can use the following questions to guide their research:

- When did women get the right to vote in Australia?
- · Which state first gave women the right to vote?
- When were women first given the right to stand for Federal Parliament in Australia?
- When were Australian Aboriginal women given the right to vote?
- Who was the first woman to be elected to the House of Representatives?
- Who was the first woman to be elected in the Senate?
- Who was Australia's first female prime minister?





### Class discussion: What is a biography?

Before students begin to write their biographies, hold a class discussion to find out what they already know about biographical writing. Record students' responses. 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.



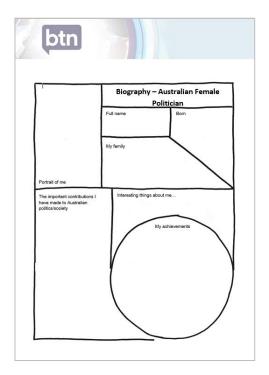
### Women in Politics - Create a biography

Students will choose a woman in Australian politics (past or present) and write a biography about them. Using the *Biography Organiser* template at the end of this activity, students will find and record information about the female politician they have chosen. Some possible areas of research include:

- Where and when were they born? Describe their family life growing up.
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What inspired/motivated them to become a politician?
- What were their challenges?
- How do we recognise their achievements?
- How have they made an impact on people's lives?
- How did they change our understanding of the world?
- What do you admire about them?
- Imagine you could sit down and talk to them. What questions would you ask about their life and work?

Present your findings in an interesting way.

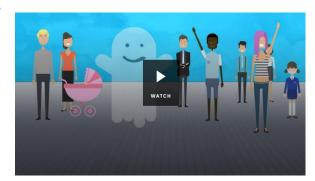
- Give a presentation on their achievements
- Create a portrait
- Make a "Did you know?" for other students
- Write a letter thanking them for their achievements and how they have changed the world
- Create a timeline highlighting significant events



The following BTN story may help students with their research. They can also respond to the questions relating to each story.

### BTN History of Voting

- 1. Who was allowed to vote in Australia in the 1800s?
- 2. What does suffrage mean?
- 3. Who were the suffragettes?
- 4. When did women get the right to vote in Australia?
- 5. When did all Indigenous people get the right to vote in federal elections?
- 6. In which year did the voting age change from 21 to 18 years of age?
- 7. Do you think the right to vote is important? Explain your answer.



#### BTN Women at Work

- 1. What changes started to happen for women in the late 1800s?
- 2. Which state was the first to give women the vote?
- 3. How did the Second World War change the role of women?
- 4. After the war, most women were forced to go back
- 5. Describe work for women in the 1950s.
- 6. How did women fight for their rights in the 1960s and 1970s?
- 7. How has your thinking changed since watching the Women at Work story?







## **International Women's Day**

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. How does your school honour and celebrate the achievements of women all around the world? Go to the <a href="International Women's Day website">International Women's Day website</a> for more information.





National Museum Australia – First women in Parliament https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/first-women-in-parliament

National Museum Australia – Women's suffrage https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/womens-suffrage

AEC – Electoral Milestones for Women <a href="https://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/Australian\_Electoral\_History/milestone.htm">https://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/Australian\_Electoral\_History/milestone.htm</a>

BTN – History of Voting http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/history-of-voting/10524754

BTN – Women at Work http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/women-at-work/10523414





Create a timeline showing significant political milestones for Australian women. List an interesting fact for each significant event listed on your timeline.

