



Teacher Resource

New Leaders

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. Who is the new leader of the Liberal Party?
2. It's the first time the Liberal Party has had a female leader. True or false?
3. Adam Bandt is the former leader of which party? Who has taken over from him as leader?
4. What is the name of the key group of decision-makers in the government?
 - a. Senate
 - b. Cabinet
 - c. House of Representatives
5. What questions do you have about the BTN New Leaders story?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN story, discuss with students what they learnt. Use the following questions to guide discussion.

- What political parties in Australia have new leaders? Name one.
- What is the Cabinet?
- What questions do you have about the story?



Activity: Ask a Question

Do you have a question about leaders in Australian parliament that you would like to ask as a class? Send it into the PEO's [Your questions on notice](#)

Below are some examples from the PEO's Your Questions on Notice.

"How does a political party choose its leader?" – [Response](#)

"How is the Prime Minister chosen?" – [Response](#)



EPISODE 13

20 May 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about leaders in Australian parliament. Students will develop a range of questions they would ask leaders in parliament.

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.

HASS – Year 5

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

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 New Leaders story. Here are some words to get them started.

MINISTER	CABINET	DEPUTY LEADER
SEAT	FORMER LEADER	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Further activities for students:

- Add to your glossary by downloading the transcript for the BTN story and highlight all the words that relate to the topic. For example, federal Cabinet, Greens leader and Liberal leader. Visit the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) [glossary](#) and browse or search the meanings of key parliamentary terms.
- Why is a Cabinet called a Cabinet? Explore the origin of the term Cabinet.
- What is the difference between a minister and a shadow minister?
- 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: Profile

In May 2025, Australia introduced a wave of new political leadership, with the announcement of a new federal Cabinet, a new opposition leader, and a new leader of the Greens. In this activity students will research who these leaders are and what their role is in Australian parliament. Before starting this activity, students will find out who the following leaders are in Australian parliament. Refer to the PEO's website to find out [Who's who in the current Parliament](#).

Types of Leaders in Parliament	Who and what is their role?
Who is the Prime Minister of Australia?	
Who is the Leader of the Opposition?	
Who is the Deputy Prime Minister?	
Who is the leader of the Australian Greens?	
Who is the leader of the National Party of Australia?	
Who is the Leader of the Government in the Senate?	
Who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate?	

Students will choose one and explore their background in more detail and create a profile of them. Students will find out as much as they can about them using a range of primary and secondary sources. Examples of primary sources include interview transcripts, photographs, novels, paintings, films, historical

documents, and official statistics. Examples of secondary sources include journal articles, political commentary, biographies, and newspaper editorial/opinion pieces.

Students will include the following in their profiles:

- Name
- What electorate or state do they represent?
- Have they won a seat in the House of Representatives or Senate?
- What is their background?
- What are their key policies?
- What other interesting information did you find?



Watch BTN's Election Lingo story to learn more about [Houses](#)!

Activity: Representative Democracy

In Australia we have something called a representative democracy, which means that the people vote to elect members of parliament to represent their views and make decisions on their behalf in government. It's their responsibility to keep in touch with their voters and make sure their voices are heard on a national level. In this activity students will reflect on what makes a good representative both in politics and in their own community.

What makes a good representative?

Begin this activity by asking students to think about the following question:

What do you think makes a good representative?

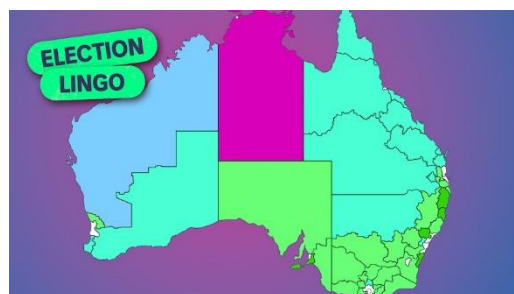
Brainstorm and list what a good representative 'is', 'does', 'does not' and 'says'. Record their ideas. Here are some examples:

- honest
- good at communicating
- confident
- has a positive attitude
- commitment
- creative
- inspiring
- good at solving problems
- works well with people

Who represents you in your electorate?

Find out which electorate your school is located in and who represents you in your local area.

- Go to the *Australian Electoral Commission* website to [find your electorate](#).
- Find more information on the electorate that your school is situated. On a map locate your school and draw the boundary of your electorate.



Watch BTN's Election Lingo story to learn more about [Electorates](#)!

- Create a profile on your local Member of Parliament.
 - Who is the current member for this electorate?
 - What political party do they represent?
 - Is it a safe or marginal seat?



Who represents you in your school community?

- What makes your school a democratic community?
- Who makes decisions at your school? Give examples.
- What decisions do you make personally?
- Are many decisions made through representation?
- How do your school representatives know what you want?
- Who represents you on the School Representative Council (SRC)?
- How important is it for us to have good representatives that make decisions on our behalf?
- How can teachers, students and parents have a say in what happens in your school community?

Watch BTN's Election Lingo story to learn more about [Safe and Marginal Seats](#)!

Activity: Interview a Leader

Students will imagine they are given the opportunity to interview the leader of one of Australia's political parties. Their task is to write a list of interview questions that they would like to ask the leader of the party. Students need to remember to write open-ended questions. Open-ended questions have no right or wrong answer and can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'.



Before writing their interview questions, students will need to think about the following:

- What are the main political parties in Australia? How are they similar or different?
- Who are the leaders of the main political parties in Australia?
- What issues would you like to ask about in your interview?
- Choose a topic that is important to you and your school community. What do you want the leader of the party to do about it?



Watch BTN's Election Lingo story to learn more about [Parties](#)!

Activity: Explainers

Election reporting can be full of words and phrases that we don't hear too often and can sound a little complicated. So, as part of BTN's election coverage, we've asked some of our rookie reporters to explain some election terms. Watch BTN's Election Lingo videos to learn more about electorates, houses, majority/minority governments, political parties, political seats and the democracy sausage!



[Electorates](#)



[Majority/Minority Governments](#)



[Houses](#)



[Electorates](#)



[Political Parties](#)



[Safe and Marginal Seats](#)



[Democracy Sausage](#)

Useful Websites

- [New Cabinet Sworn in and New Liberal Leader](#) – BTN Newsbreak
- [Cabinet](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Who's who in the current Parliament](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Sussan Ley becomes first woman to lead Liberal Party](#) – ABC News
- [What is a Minister?](#) – BTN
- [Ministers and Shadow Ministers](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [What is a minister and what do they do?](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [People in Parliament](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Frontbenchers and backbenchers](#) – Parliamentary Education Office