

Border Restrictions

Focus Questions

1. Discuss the BTN *Border Restrictions* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. Why have many states and territories put border restrictions in place?
3. How have the border restrictions affected the kids in the BTN story?
4. Complete the following sentence. Many experts say that closing the borders is one of the best ways to keep the _____ contained.
5. What does Alan Joyce, the boss of Qantas think about the border closures?
6. Why has businessman Clive Palmer taken Western Australia's government to court?
7. What does Australia's Constitution say about goods and services moving freely around the country?
8. What are some exceptions to that law?
9. What border restrictions are there in the state where you live?
10. Do you think the border restrictions are a good idea? Give reasons for your answer.

Activity

Personal response

After watching the BTN *Border Restrictions* story, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- This story made me wonder why...
- It was interesting to learn that...
- This story made me feel...
- BTN covered this story because...

Class Discussion

As a class discuss the BTN *Border Restrictions* story using the following questions as a guide. Record the main points of discussion.

- Why have the borders been shut between states and territories in Australia?
- Who decides whether the borders should be closed?
- How have border restrictions impacted people?
- How have you been affected by the border restrictions?
- Do you think the border restrictions are a good idea? Give reasons for your answer.

Key Learning

Students will learn more about Australia's Federation and the three levels of government and responsibilities of each.

Curriculum

Civics and Citizenship – Year 6

The roles and responsibilities of Australia's three levels of government.

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

History – Year 6

Key figures, events and ideas that led to Australia's Federation and Constitution.

English

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience.

Activity

Federation and Australia's Constitution

To gain a deeper understanding of how Australia came to have states and territories, students will watch the following BTN stories [Federation](#) and [Constitution](#) and answer the questions below.

1. Before Federation, Australia was divided into six separate _____.
2. Which other country might have been part of Australia?
3. Who was Henry Parkes?
4. What was his famous speech about?
5. Why were initial attempts to become a Federation rejected?
6. What role did Alfred Deakin play in Australia becoming a Federation?
7. In what year did Australia become a nation?
8. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?



1. What is a constitution?
2. What sorts of things are set out in Australia's Constitution?
3. No other law can overrule the constitution. True or false?
4. When was Australia's Constitution drawn up?
5. Which group of people were discriminated against in the original constitution?
6. What is a referendum?
7. What two changes to the Constitution happened as a result of the referendum in 1967?
8. Why do you think the Constitution is described as the country's birth certificate?

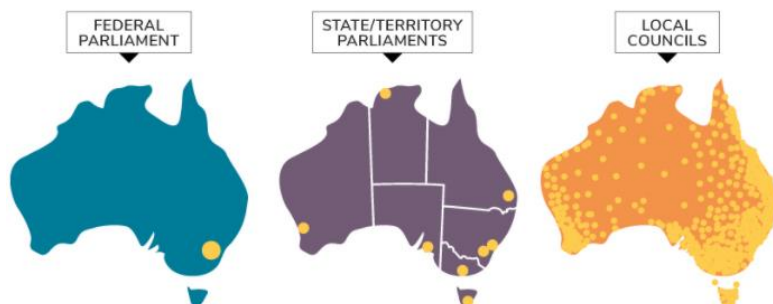


Activity

Three Levels of Government

Students will investigate the three levels of government in Australia and the responsibilities of each. Watch the Parliamentary Education Office [Three Levels of Government](#) video and the BTN [Levels of Government](#) story to learn more about how the levels of government in Australia work. Ask students to respond to the questions below.

THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA



[Parliamentary Education Office](#)

Federal Government

- What is the decision-making body of federal government?
- What are the two houses of parliament?
- What is the leader of the federal government called?
- How often are elections held?
- What are the representatives of each houses of parliament called?
- Give three examples of federal government responsibilities.

State and Territory Government

- What is the decision-making body of state government?
- Are all states made up of two houses?
- What is the leader of the state government called?
- What is the leader of each territory government called?
- Give three examples of state government responsibilities.

Local Government

- What is the decision-making body of local government?
- What are the representatives called?
- What is the head of the council called?
- Give three examples of local government responsibilities.

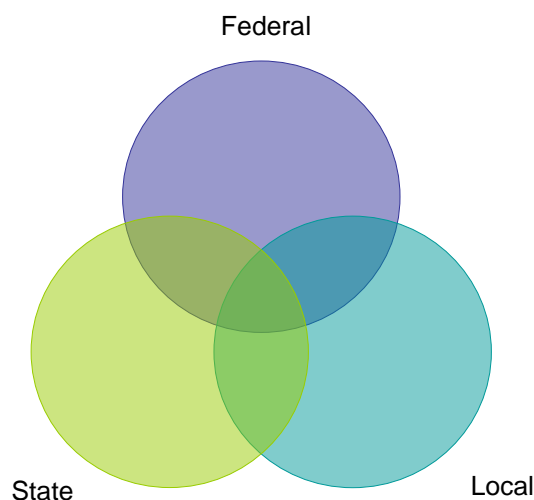
Activity

Shared and separate responsibilities

Working in pairs, students will investigate the shared and separate responsibilities of the three levels of government. They can display their information using a Venn diagram with three circles. Record shared responsibilities in the overlapping areas. Ask students to consider why there are some responsibilities that are shared between the different levels of government.

Challenge

Research an issue that state/territory and federal governments have disagreed on. How was the issue resolved?



Activity

Mini Debate or Persuasive text

Students will develop a mini debate or a persuasive text for or against the following statement: '*State and territory borders should be closed to stop the spread of coronavirus.*' Students can use the information recorded on the mind map and their own research to help develop their argument.

Mini debate

- Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1-2-minute speech for a mini debate on the topic.
- One person will speak for the affirmative and the other will speak for the negative.

- Before students begin to construct their argument, ask them to record what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Students then research the topic to gain a greater understanding of the issue.
- Ask students to list their arguments in point form on paper (without their partner seeing them). When they have done this, ask them to choose the five best points that will form the basis for their debate.
- Students will write in point form, their debate on cards that fit into the palm of their hand. Their debate needs to have an introduction (introducing the topic), middle (three main points) and a conclusion (restating their position). Students practise their speech and then present the mini debate to other students.

Structure

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this [*Read Write Think* persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

Activity

Quiz Questions	Your Answer
1. How many levels of government are there in Australia? a. One b. Two c. Three	
2. Before Federation, Australia was made up of 6 different colonies. a. True b. False	
3. Australia is made up of... a. 6 states and 2 territories b. 5 states and 3 territories c. 7 states and 1 territory	
4. What is the leader of a state called? a. Prime Minister b. Premier c. Chief Minister	

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5. What is the name of the set of rules by which Australia is run?
a. Federation
b. Constitution
c. Referendum | |
|---|--|

Answers: 1c, 2a, 3a, 4b, 5b

Useful Websites

Levels of Government – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/levels-of-government/10524692>

Federation – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/federation/10528704>

Constitution – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/constitution/10529046>

Federal Court says hard border best at stopping coronavirus from entering WA in Clive Palmer case – ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-25/wa-loses-bid-for-fresh-trial-in-clive-palmer-hard-border-battle/12592524>

How effective are border closures at stopping COVID-19? This is what scientists think – ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2020-07-10/coronavirus-victoria-border-closures-what-does-science-say/12438244>