

Constitutional Recognition

Focus Questions

1. Discuss the *Constitutional Recognition* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. What is a constitution?
3. When was the Australian Constitution written?
4. What is a referendum?
5. To change the Constitution there has to be a referendum. True or false?
6. What needs to happen for a referendum to be passed?
7. In 1967 what percent of Australians voted 'yes' to change the Constitution?
8. What are some of the changes that people want to make to the Constitution?
9. Name three things you learnt watching the BTN story.
10. What questions do you have after watching the BTN story?

Activity

Class discussion

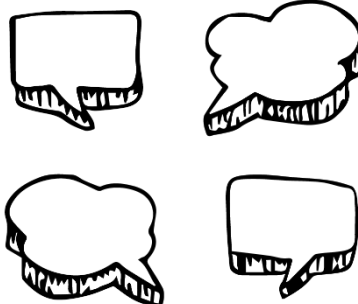
After watching the BTN *Constitutional Recognition* story, hold a class discussion about the information raised in the story. The following questions may help guide the discussion:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have after watching the story?

Further investigation

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions:

- Who are the traditional owners of the land, where The Garma Festival is held? Find the land using this [map](#).
- What are some of the important issues that are talked about at The Garma Festival?
- Discuss how you think being left out of the Australian Constitution affected Aboriginal people?



Key Learning

Students will describe the process for constitutional change through a referendum.

AC Curriculum

HASS – Year 4

Sequence information about people's lives and events.

HASS – Year 6

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

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

HASS – Year 7

Sequence information about events, developments, periods and phenomena using a variety of discipline-appropriate formats and conventions including chronological frameworks that use dating conventions.

Civics & Citizenship – Year 7

The process for constitutional change through a referendum.

Critically analyse information and ideas from a range of sources in relation to civics and citizenship topics and issues.

Present evidence-based civics and citizenship arguments using subject-specific language.

Activity

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *Constitutional Recognition* story. Students will then use the words to write their own sentences about the issue. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get you started.

Constitution	Referendum	Recognition
Rights	Reconciliation	Australia's First Peoples

BTN Explainer

Constitutional recognition is something a lot of Indigenous people in Australia have been campaigning for, for a long time. But, what exactly is it and why is it such a big deal? Watch BTN's Explainer on Constitutional Recognition as a class and hold a class discussion to clarify terms and meanings. [Link to BTN Explainer](#)



Activity

KWLH

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

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

Research questions for inquiry

Students will determine a focus for their inquiry and develop a key question to guide their inquiry (below are some examples). Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines).

- What is the Australian Constitution? When and why was it written? Include the following words in your explanation: colonies, nation, federation, Australian Constitution and system of government.
- Were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples included in the process? Who wrote the Constitution? And who voted for it when it was first formed?
- What are the steps to change the Australian Constitution? Investigate what a referendum is and how it works. Use a timeline to highlight important referendums in Australia.
- What is meant by the term constitutional recognition? Explore the progress of constitutional recognition in Australia using a timeline to highlight important events.
- Why was the 1967 Referendum important in Australia's human rights history? Use the term constitutional recognition in your explanation.
- How could you get the message out to all Australians that there needs to be a change in the Constitution to formally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples? Design a campaign to spread your message.

Activity

BTN story – 1967 Referendum

The 1967 referendum saw the majority of Australians vote to change our country's laws to count Indigenous Australians as full citizens. Watch BTN's [1967 Referendum](#) story and then students will respond to the following questions.

1. How long ago did Australians vote to change our country's laws to recognise Indigenous Australians as citizens?
2. Describe what it was like in Australia in the 1960s.
3. Did Aboriginal people have equal rights to other Australians in the 1960s? Explain.
4. In what year were Indigenous Australians given the right to vote in Federal Elections?
5. To change the constitution there has to be a referendum. True or false?
6. What is a referendum?
7. In 1967 what percent of Australians voted 'yes' to change the Constitution?
8. Discuss why it is important to remember Australia's 1967 referendum.
9. What does it mean to have equal rights? Explain your answer.
10. Name three things you learnt watching the BTN story.



Activity

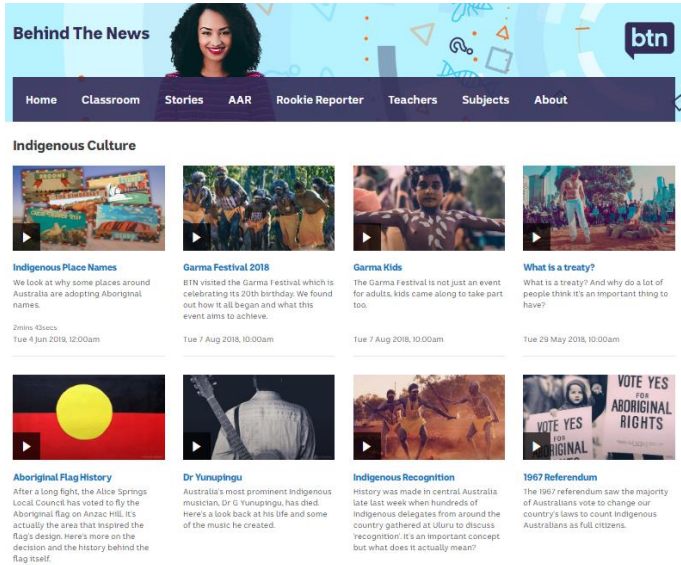
BTN stories – Indigenous Culture

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and issues.

After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).

Link to collection of BTN stories about Indigenous culture

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/indigenous-culture/10576610>



The screenshot shows the 'Behind The News' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Classroom, Stories, AAR, Rookie Reporter, Teachers, Subjects, and About. Below the navigation bar, the 'Indigenous Culture' section is displayed, featuring a grid of video thumbnails with titles and brief descriptions. The stories include:

- Indigenous Place Names**: We look at why some places around Australia are adopting Aboriginal names. (3min 45sec, Tue 4 Jun 2019, 12:00am)
- Garma Festival 2018**: BTN visited the Garma Festival which is celebrating its 20th birthday. We found out how it all began and what this event aims to achieve. (Tue 7 Aug 2018, 10:00am)
- Garma Kids**: The Garma Festival is not just an event for adults, kids came along to take part too. (Tue 7 Aug 2018, 10:00am)
- What is a treaty?**: What is a treaty? And why do a lot of people think it's an important thing to have? (Tue 29 May 2018, 10:00am)
- Aboriginal Flag History**: After a long fight, the Alice Springs Local Council has voted to fly the Aboriginal flag on Anzac Hill. It's actually the area that inspired the flag's design. Here's more on the decision and the history behind the flag itself.
- Dr Yunupingu**: Australia's most prominent Indigenous musician, Dr Yunupingu, has died. Here's a look back at his life and some of the music he created.
- Indigenous Recognition**: History was made in central Australia late last week when hundreds of Indigenous delegates from around the country gathered at Uluru to discuss 'recognition'. It's an important concept but what does it actually mean?
- 1967 Referendum**: The 1967 referendum saw the majority of Australians vote to change our country's laws to count Indigenous Australians as full citizens.

Useful Websites

Constitutional Recognition – Reconciliation Australia

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NRW2014_Constitutional-Recog_FactS.pdf

Indigenous Parliament – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/indigenous-parliament/10528188>

What is a Treaty? – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/what-is-a-treaty/10489008>

Constitution – BTN

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

1967 Referendum – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/1967-referendum/10523010>