

AUSTRALIA

Student: _____-group

Teacher: _____



NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF AUSTRALIA

COAT OF ARMS

Australian's current Coat of Arms was granted by King George V in September of 1912 and is the second Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The first version appeared in 1908 and although similar, it did not include any specific references to the Australian States recommendations of the Commonwealth government by King George V led to a number of changes which resulted in the design we see today.

NATIONAL FLAG

- **Who designed it?**
- A competition was held for a design in 1901. Five entries, almost identical, shared the prize. Artist Annie Whistler Dorrington was the first named of the five.
- **When and where it was flown?**
- 1901 in Melbourne. In 1908 a seventh point was added to the Commonwealth star to represent territories
- **What do the stars represent?**
- The five stars on the right represent the constellation of stars known as the Southern Cross and represents Australia's location in the southern hemisphere. The large, seven-pointed star is the federation or Commonwealth star. Each of the points represents one of the six States and seventh for the present Australian territories (Canberra and Northern Territory)



Australia's National Anthem

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia fair!
In joyful strains then let us sing,
"Advance Australia fair!"

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
"Advance Australia fair!"

by Peter Dodds McCormick, 1878.

Political system

Australia is a constitutional monarchy, with the queen of Great Britain at its head. It consists of six states and two territories. The queen is represented by the governor-general who is appointed by the Australian government. The governor-general appoints members of the Executive Council, has an advisory cabinet. The main legislative body in the country is the Federal Parliament. It consists of the Queen, the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are ten senators from each state and two from each territory in the Senate. The House of Representatives is elected by a general direct vote for a three-year term. The executive power belongs to the queen and government. It is headed by the Prime Minister. The ministers are chosen from members of Parliament and the Executive Council. There are two major political parties in Australia: The Australian Labour party and a coalition of the Liberal and the Agrarian parties.

LANGUAGE

Though Australia has no official language, English is regarded as the de facto national language of Australia and is spoken by all. Even so Australia is a linguistically and culturally diverse country with influences from more than 160 spoken languages. Australian language has a unique accent and vocabulary. Collectively, Australians have more than 200 spoken languages. Immigration patterns have had a significant influence on the most widely spoken language in the country other than English.

AUSTRALIA

Bank Holidays

Jan 01	New Years Day	Jun 01	Western Australia Day
Jan 26	Australia Day	Jun 08	Queens Birthday
Mar 02	Labour Day	Aug 03	Picnic Day
Mar 09	Adelaide Cup	Aug 12	Ekka People's Day
Mar 09	Canberra Day	Sep 06	Fathers Day
Mar 09	Labour Day	Sep 28	Family & Community Day
Apr 03	Good Friday	Sep 28	Queens Birthday
Apr 06	Easter Monday	Oct 05	Labour Day
Apr 25	ANZAC Day	Nov 03	Melbourne Cup Day
Apr 27	ANZAC Day (observed)	Dec 25	Christmas Day
May 04	Labour Day	Dec 26	Boxing Day
May 10	Mothers Day	Dec 28	Boxing Day (in lieu)

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION