

Parliamentary Treasures-*Signatures of Oz*

HSIE/SOSE outcome

Explains the significance of particular people, places, events and objects in the past in developing Australian democracy.

Subject matter focus

Using the *Signatures of Oz* interactive the student will learn about some significant parliamentary artefacts and dates related to them.

Implications for learning

In this area of study, students have opportunities to:

- Learn some simple facts about some of Australia's parliamentary artefacts.
- Research additional facts.
- Collate information to form a visual representation of time.
- Judge the significance of the artefacts.

Take home message

There is a connection between parliamentary treasures and Australian democracy.

***Signatures of Oz* outcome**

Investigate some of the past people, places, events and objects that have had a lasting impact on Australia's system of parliamentary democracy.

Using the *Signatures of Oz* interactive

The *Signatures of Oz* interactive may be used as follows:

- Read each of the postcards.
- Put a stamp on each postcard. What happens if the stamp dates are correct? Incorrect?
- Write down a fact and a question to investigate from each.
- Share your facts and research the answer to your questions.
- Construct a timeline from this interactive. Work out how many years these postcards span.

Key questions

- Can you name the treasure on each postcard?
- Are the treasures familiar objects? Why? Why not?
- What information do you get from each postcard? Do you think the information is complete? Why? Why not?
- What other information would you like to have about each treasure?
- Why are the postcards posted to Australia's Parliament House?
- Can you make a statement about the history of democracy using this interactive? If so, what is that statement?

Class activities

- Create five more 'Signatures of Oz'. What are they? What is the significance of each treasure?
- Write your own postcard and create five more stamps so that the postcards can be posted to Parliament House either now or in the future.
- Decide which parliamentary treasure you think is most significant. Explain why.
- Write three questions that you would like to ask the Mace and Black Rod.

- Create a list of national symbols. Are they unique to Australia or can they be found elsewhere in the world?

Reflection

- Judge whether the Mace and Black Rod are really symbols of Australian democracy. Explain your answer.
- Choose something that you would give as a reward for an outstanding contribution to democracy.
- What if the Magna Carta never existed? Would Australian society be different?

Integration

- History: Why is there a Union Jack on the Australian flag? What is the significance of the Southern Cross?
- Art: Design a new Australian flag.

Literacy notes

This unit provides opportunities for students to investigate facts and to research the answers to questions; present information orally; interpret written information to a visual form; draw conclusions; and to write creatively.

Resources

Get Parliament, magazine available from the Parliamentary Education Office.
See http://www.peo.gov.au/publications/get_parliament.html

Links

Parliament of Australia: <http://www.aph.gov.au/>