

The Australian Constitution

1. Create a Constitution quiz

Devise a quiz about the Australian Constitution. Write a list of ten questions and answers. For example, you could ask questions like 'How many changes to the Constitution have Australians agreed to?' Find a partner and take it in turns to answer each other's questions.



2. Describe the steps for changing the Australian Constitution

You may like to present your answer in dot points or as a flow chart.

3. Create a constitution for your classroom

Hold a class discussion to decide what should be included in the constitution. Remember, a constitution is a set of rules about how something is governed. You could include rules about how students should treat each other and how they should behave in the classroom.

Divide the class into groups and ask each group to make a colourful poster illustrating one of the rules from the Classroom Constitution.



4. Design a book cover for the Australian Constitution

Imagine a children's version of the Constitution is being created. Design a cover for this Constitution that includes symbols or images that reflect what the Constitution is about.

5. Discuss why Australians have agreed to so few changes to the Australian Constitution

Australia has held 19 referendums proposing 44 changes to the Constitution. The Australian people have only agreed to 8 of these changes.

In small groups research one of the 19 referendums. As a class, discuss why you think Australians have agreed to so few changes to the Constitution.

To find out more about referendums, check out the links on the Australian Electoral Commission website:

www.aec.gov.au/Elections/referendums/index.htm



6. Create a pamphlet or poster for the 1999 referendum to decide whether Australia should become a republic

If the referendum had passed, the Queen and Governor-General would have been replaced by a president appointed by the federal Parliament.

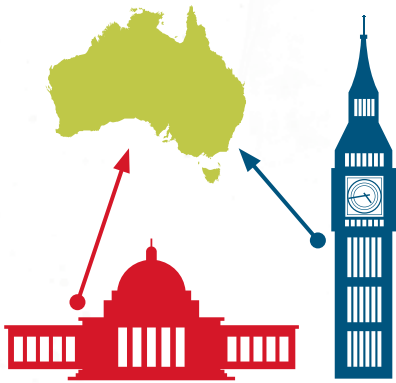
Decide whether you will promote a 'yes' or 'no' vote in the referendum. You will need to do some research.

To help you, search for 'Fast facts: The 1999 Referendum' on The Civics and Citizenship Education website:

www.curriculum.edu.au/cce



YES?
OR NO!



7. Describe how Australia's system of government was influenced by Britain and the United States

Follow these links on the PEO website to find out more:

www.peo.gov.au/students/cl/comparison.html

www.peo.gov.au/students/cl/history.html

You could also check out this link:

'For Peace, Order and Good Government'

www.aph.gov.au/exhibitions/pogg/index.htm



8. Change section 51

Section 51 of the Australian Constitution lists the federal Parliament's law-making powers. Imagine you could alter section 51 by adding, removing or rewording a power. What would you change? Explain your reasons.