

# Federation

## 1. The Federation quiz

- How many British colonies were there in Australia before 1901?
- Give one reason why the colonies decided to federate.
- On what date did Australia become a nation?
- Which was the last colony to join the federation?
- At the time of federation which country did the colonies look to as the 'mother country'?
- What is the Australian Constitution?
- How did the Australian people agree to federation?
- What did the British Parliament do so Australia could federate?
- What was the name of Australia's first Prime Minister?
- How many people watched the ceremony in Centennial Park when Australia was declared a nation?



## 2. Create a political cartoon or poster encouraging people to vote 'Yes' or 'No' in the federation referendum

To find out more about the arguments for and against federation, search for 'Federation fast facts' on The Civics and Citizenship Education website:

[www.curriculum.edu.au/cce](http://www.curriculum.edu.au/cce)

You could also check out the 'For Peace, Order and Good Government' website:

[www.aph.gov.au/exhibitions/pogg/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/exhibitions/pogg/index.htm)

## 3. Design a poster advertising federation celebrations or a costume to wear to the celebrations

Remember to include the date, time, place and any special symbols connected with federation on your poster. If you create a costume, explain why you chose this design.

For inspiration, take a look at federation images from Picture Australia:

[www.pictureaustralia.org/trail/federation](http://www.pictureaustralia.org/trail/federation)

## 4. Imagine you are Queen Victoria writing a letter to the Australian people

The letter will be read out during the ceremony in Centennial Park on 1 January 1901, when Australia is declared a nation. Think about what the Queen might say about Australia's future and about our connection with Britain. How would federation change her relationship with Australia? Would the Queen see federation as a happy or sad occasion?



## 5. Organise a class debate on the topic of federation

You will need three people to form a team that will argue the reasons for federation and three people to form a team that will argue the reasons against federation. At the conclusion of the debate ask the class to vote for the team with the most convincing argument.

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## 6. Imagine it is 1 January 1901 and you are a journalist who has been asked to write an article about the Federation parade and the ceremony in Centennial Park in Sydney

Use 'who, what, when, where, why' questions to collect information.

For more information about federation check out this link to 'Federation Story' on the ABC website:

[www.abc.net.au/federation/fedstory/home.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/federation/fedstory/home.htm)

Australian Screen has film clips that show the federation parade and the ceremony in Centennial Park. To view these clips follow the link below. Check out the educational notes that accompany the clips.

[www.aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/inauguration-commonwealth/](http://www.aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/inauguration-commonwealth/)

## 7. Investigate how federation was celebrated in your local area or state

Research the federation celebrations in your town, city or state. Write a report about what happened and be sure to include a photograph in your report.

To find out more check out these links:

Picture Australia

[www.pictureaustralia.org/trail/federation](http://www.pictureaustralia.org/trail/federation)

Museum of Australian Democracy

[www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/resources/](http://www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/resources/)

(Getting it Together: From Colonies to Federation)

## 8. Write a biography about one of the founders of federation

A number of key people were influential in the federation of Australia, such as Henry Parkes, Edmund Barton, Catherine Helen Spence, John Quick, Vida Goldstein, Charles Kingston, George Reid, Mary Lee, Edward Braddon, Louisa Lawson, Andrew Inglis Clark and Alfred Deakin. Find out more about one or more of these 'founders' and describe how they worked towards federation.



George Reid



Alfred Deakin

To find out more check out these links:

The National Library of Australia's Federation Gateway People  
[www.nla.gov.au/guides/federation/people.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/guides/federation/people.html)

Museum of Australian Democracy  
[www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/resources/](http://www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/resources/)

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