

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER



Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – Plan your own Australia Day celebration

Plan your own Australia Day (or NAIDOC Week, Affirmation Ceremony or other) celebration or commemoration

Outline	Inquiry approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students develop their understanding of an Australian event, celebration or commemoration and plan a special day Students will gain an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Harmony Week, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC week) and the importance of symbols and emblems (Australian Curriculum, History, Year 3, ACHHK063)</i> This is a whole class activity and will require small, mixed ability groups to complete all preparation tasks. 	<p>ASK: Tune In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and discuss the inquiry question: <i>What is a celebration or commemoration, which Australian event should we celebrate and how do we plan an Australian celebration or commemoration?</i> Engage your students in their learning by brainstorming the difference between celebrations and commemorations and then discuss with them the range of Australian celebrations and commemorations they know about. Encourage them to share their own experiences and explore with them what they would like to learn and know about through this activity (your students can play with the Aussie Clue Cracker to find out about some of the events, celebrations or commemorations that are included such as Australia Day, Harmony Day, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC Week, the Melbourne Cup). Discuss with your students the sorts of organisational aspects of planning and hosting a celebration or commemoration event and encourage them to decide as a class which event they would like to plan and host (refer to the Worksheet ideas to help get your started). <p>INVESTIGATE: Find Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your students to gather information from the Aussie Clue Cracker. Once the event has been decided on, encourage your students to find out about the purpose of the event by investigating some of the links referred to in this activity and explore the range of tasks required to plan and implement the event in your class or at your school (including jobs/roles and responsibilities including the MC, advertisers, performers, caterers – see the Worksheet for some ideas). At this stage, your students may refine the inquiry question or follow a new path that the original question did not-or could not-anticipate.

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CREATE: Sort Out

- Your students should be organising the information they have gathered and beginning to allocate tasks and jobs for the Student Event Organising Committee and its associated teams.
- The planning for the event commences and a timeline is established.

DISCUSS and Make Connections

- As they go, your students will be making connections with information gathered in the Aussie Clue Cracker, their own prior knowledge and will begin to form new knowledge about the event they have chosen to host.
- Your students will begin to shape their new thoughts and ideas for the event and focus on the learning artefacts which might involve performance, publishing and the event itself to deepen their understanding of the concepts and ideas related to the inquiry question.
- Encourage your students to share their new ideas with others and to compare notes, discuss conclusions, and share their experiences.

EXTEND: Going further

- Further explore concepts, interests and ideas and raise new questions and challenge any assumptions made.

REFLECT:

- Take time with your students to encourage them to look back at the question - *What is a celebration or commemoration, which Australian event should we celebrate and how do we plan an Australian celebration or commemoration?* – and encourage them to share what they know now. Have they learned more about what is involved in organising an event, and specifically the one they have chosen?
- Ask them to reflect on how they used the Aussie Clue Cracker and other resources such as web links and electorate office resources to help them. Encourage them to explain what they found, the conclusions they made, the observations they took.
- Ask your students if an answer to the question was found and discuss any new questions that arose as part of the inquiry.

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Resources for teachers

- Australia Day (National Australia Day Council)
www.australiaday.org.au
www.australiaday.org.au/toolkit
- The electorate offices of Senators and Federal Members of Parliament have available (at no cost) *Australian flags* and *Australian symbols* booklets and recordings of the Australian National Anthem (CD and DVD). Flags are also available on request to eligible groups such as schools.
- Fact sheets on Australians national symbols may be downloaded from www.itsanhonour.gov.au
- Australia Day Affirmation Cards and School Australian Citizenship Affirmation Ceremonies
www.australianaffirmation.org.au and www.citizenship.gov.au/ceremonies/affirmation
- The Australian War Memorial and ANZAC Day
<http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/>
- Harmony Day
<http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/>
- NAIDOC Week
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>
- Melbourne Cup
<http://www.melbournecup.com/melbourne-cup-carnival/history-of-melbourne-cup.asp>



Worksheet - What you need to consider when organising an event

Events don't just happen. They require a great deal of decision-making and planning.

You may choose to plan and organise an event which involves other classes within your school or even other schools and is on a grander scale.

Draw on the ideas presented here and work closely with your Student Event Organising Committee to see it to fruition.

Begin by deciding how this activity relates to the school curriculum and incorporate it into your planning.

1. Establishing your Student Event Organising Committee

The best teams or organising committees are those whose members feel valued, whose input makes a difference and whose jobs are clearly spelt out. After all, have you ever seen a successful hockey team where everyone is shooting for goal?

Explore the sorts of roles members of your organising committee can play. Your students may have an Organising Committee that represent different teams/groups within the class, with different tasks that they are focussing on such as advertising, inviting different members of the school community, setting up and decorating the venue etc. Spend some time brainstorming these tasks and roles with your students as it will help them develop a deeper understanding of the range of tasks and jobs that need to be completed.

You can draw from the list below and be careful not to turn this into a popularity contest. The best teams are filled with people of different skills. (Remember, roles can be shared between students and can vary over time.)

2. Possible Roles

- **Event Organising Committee Manager:** This student will be the overall student manager for the organising committee in your class. S/he will be a good organiser who is able to assist in arranging planning meetings, setting agendas and keeping other students on task. S/he will talk with different members of the school community if you decide to invite school leadership, parents or other school community members and will encourage as many students as possible to take action and make everyone feel involved. This role could be shared between students.
- **Event Organising Committee Secretary(ies):** These students document what you are doing. They take notes during meetings, help write reports and develop advertisements for events.
- **Event Organising Committee Communication Manager(s):** These students will focus on *spreading the word*. They will ensure advertisements are posted around the classroom, school, bulletins and might even be responsible for drafting an article or two for the school newsletter. These students could also design and create special invitations for members of the school and wider community to attend your event.
- **Event Organising Team Members:** As the project develops in your classroom, and the vision for your event crystallises, new roles and responsibilities will develop. For instance, if your

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focus will be *Hosting an Event* such as an Australia Day celebration, you may have team members in charge of a range of aspects of the event.

3. Event ideas

Here are some ideas for your event that you might like to brainstorm and share with your students:

- Will the Ceremony take place on a special day, at what time? Will it replace a whole school assembly or be a special event separate from other regular school events?
- What will the schedule or program for the ceremony/event be?
- Will there need to be a Masters of Ceremony of the proceedings?
- Could the Organising Committee coordinate an Affirmation Ceremony as part of the proceedings and include the Australian Citizenship Affirmation (see Activity 2 for more details on this) as an integral part of the event? You could even give a card to every person attending the event. Students could design these themselves or you could order extra copies of the special edition Australia Day Affirmation Cards online at www.australianaffirmation.org.au or www.citizenship.gov.au/ceremonies/affirmation ?
- Could a play, drama performance or dance be choreographed for the event?
- What speeches might be made, who might make them and how will these be co-ordinated to involve invited guests?
- Will the school choir sing the Australian anthem?
- Will the Australian Flag or other flags be raised during the ceremony and who will be in charge of this?
- Will there be special outfits/costumes for the event and who will design and make these?
- Could a concert be organised to celebrate Australian culture and what would this include?
- Will a multimedia presentation need to be designed and presented?
- How might all classes within the school become involved? Consider:
 - ✓ encouraging students in every class to draw the Australian flag and to bring it to the event with them
 - ✓ encouraging the entire school to become involved by coordinating different themes for each class attending the event so that each class presents a different focus such as celebrating Australia's heroes, celebrating Australia's diversity, celebrating Australia's indigenous heritage, celebrating Australia's natural wonders
- How might the proceedings be recorded? Could video or digital photography be used and could these be made available through your school intranet for use later on in classrooms?
- Is catering required? So you need to think about organising a BBQ for Parents and the Community?
- How might the students publicise the event so that the excitement and anticipation are spread throughout the school? This could involve creating a colourful display in a high profile area of your school – such as the entrance foyer in the Administration area - based on your event theme which includes colourful examples of student artwork, images, writing, memorabilia collected by school families and members of the community, flags, maps, research assignments, images, historical perspectives, examples of changes over time etc.