

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER



Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – The National Coat of Arms and State/Territory Coats of Arms

The National Coat of Arms and State/Territory Coats of Arms – their place and importance as Australian symbols

| Outline | Inquiry approach |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students develop an understanding of the place and symbolic purpose of National and/or state Coats of Arms Students select a Coat of Arms which they then make come to life, creating a narrative of the story it might tell 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 an individual activity. | <p>ASK: Tune In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and discuss the inquiry question: <i>What is the place and symbolic purpose of the National and/or state coat of arms? And if it could talk, what stories might it tell?</i> Engage your students in their learning by brainstorming with them what they already know about Australia's Coat of Arms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What coat of arms have they seen before? Why were these used? Why might the Australian Coat of Arms have been developed? and What are the elements within the Australian Coat of Arms? Encourage your students to share their own experiences and understanding. Explore with your students what they would like to learn and know about through this activity. <p>INVESTIGATE: Find Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow your students to gather information by reviewing resources included here (or following up a specific state coat of arms of their choice) or playing the Aussie Clue Cracker game. You can refer to Worksheet – The Australian Coat of Arms to assist yourself and your students in understanding the key elements in the Australian Coat of Arms and why these were chosen. Your students need to record what they find out as they go. As their interest in a particular element is sparked, your students will also need to find information to support what they might end up including in their narrative. Encourage them to try and find out <i>why</i> a particular element may have been included in that coat of arms and to consider how they might use this in their own |

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writing.

- 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.

CREATE: Sort Out

- Encourage your students to organise the information they have gathered and synthesise what they find out.
- As they organise their information, urge your students to think about the stories that different elements of the Coat of Arms of their choice might tell. For instance:
 - *What narrative might the kangaroo from the Australian Coat of Arms share with these students?*
 - *What could the Commonwealth Star have seen?*
 - *If a student chose the Victorian Coat of Arms, what might the Southern Cross have to say?*
 - *Tell the story of the lion in the New South Wales Coat of Arms or the miner's pick in the South Australian Coat of Arms?*

DISCUSS and Make Connections

- Your students will make connections with information gathered in the Aussie Clue Cracker, through their own investigations and link these with their own prior knowledge to begin to form new knowledge.
- As your students begin to shape their new thoughts and ideas about the narrative they will tell about the element from the specific Coat of Arms they have chosen, they will begin to develop their learning artefact that will show their deepening understanding of the concepts and ideas related to the inquiry question.
- Encourage your students to share the element they have chosen to write about, their new ideas about what they might include in the narrative and to compare notes, discuss conclusions, and share their experiences.
- When their narrative has been completed, ask your students to share their writing in small groups or the whole class.

EXTEND: Going further

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

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REFLECT:

- Take time with your students to encourage them to look back at the question - *What is the place and symbolic purpose of the National and/or state coat of arms? And if it could talk, what stories might it tell?* – and encourage them to share what they know now.
- Ask them to reflect on how they used the Aussie Clue Cracker and other resources, 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.

Resources for teachers

- Australia Day (National Australia Day Council)
www.australiaday.org.au
- 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.
- Information on the Australian Coat of Arms may be downloaded from www.itsanhonour.gov.au/coat-arms/index.cfm
- Australia.gov.au – National symbols
<http://australia.gov.au/topics/australian-facts-and-figures/national-symbols>
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Coat of Arms
http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/coat_of_arms.html

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Worksheet 1 – The Australian Coat of Arms

The information file in the Aussie Clue Cracker describes how the Australian Coat of Arms symbolises the authority of the Australian Government.

The Coat of Arms was granted to Australia in 1912.

The different parts of the Coat of Arms represent different aspects of Australia:

1. The **shield** is divided into 6 parts representing all states
2. A **border of ermine fur** around the shield represents and recognises Australia's links to Britain
3. The two **native Australian animals** are the red kangaroo and emu. It is thought the kangaroo and emu were chosen to symbolise a nation moving forward, as neither animal can move backwards easily.
4. The **7 pointed Commonwealth Star** is a crest above the shield.
5. The National Floral (plant) Emblem is the **Golden Wattle** and sprays of these surround the Coat of Arms.
6. There is a scroll containing the word '**Australia**'.



*Permission to reproduce the Commonwealth Coat of Arms
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