

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER



Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – The place of song and poetry as icons of what it means to be Australian

The place of song and poetry as icons of what it means to be Australian

Outline	Inquiry approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students develop an understanding of the place of song and poetry as icons of what it means to be Australian through illustrating and performing an anthem, song or poem that already exists or that they create themselves and that they think effectively captures what Australia means to them 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 small group or whole class activity. 	<p>ASK: Tune In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and discuss the inquiry question: <i>How does song and poetry help me to understand what it means to be Australian?</i> Engage your students in their learning by brainstorming with them the range of Australian songs and poems they know about and encourage them to share their own experiences and explore with these (they will probably talk about <i>Advance Australia Fair</i>, <i>Waltzing Matilda</i> but also encourage them to think more widely and include other songs and poems like <i>I Still Call Australia Home</i> etc). Discuss with your students how these songs and poems make them feel, the different strategies and symbols they use to evoke such responses and talk about the task at hand which involves them reviewing a song or poem of their choice and performing it, or in addition writing their own song or poem and performing that for an audience. <p>INVESTIGATE: Find Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students gather information from the Aussie Clue Cracker and other resources outlined in this activity, as well as through group discussion and research. You can refer to <i>Worksheet – Advance Australia Fair</i> and analyse the anthem's key messages. For instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the words 'Australians all' work to make us feel part of a united Australia? How is Australia 'young and free'? Is all Australia's history 'young'? What is meant by 'golden soil and wealth for toil'? How is Australia 'girt by sea'? What beauty in Australia might be 'rich and rare'? What is meant by 'beneath our radiant Southern Cross'? Who are 'those who come across the seas' and what 'boundless plains' do we share with them?

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER



Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – The place of song and poetry
as icons of what it means to be Australian

- Identify with your students the symbols contained within the national anthem and encourage them to find out more about these symbols and what they represent to Australia:
 - Our beaches
 - The Southern Cross
 - The land
- Discuss this history behind the anthem (when it was first proclaimed as Australia's anthem in 1984 and our official anthem prior to this – God Save the Queen).
- You may choose to undertake a similar analysis with another song like *Waltzing Matilda* written by Banjo Paterson and discuss the history and meanings behind the words, such as:
 - What is a 'swagman', a 'coolibah tree', a 'billabong', a 'squatter', 'tucker' and a 'jolly jumbuck'?
 - What is the story behind the song and how might it relate to real historical events such as the shearers' strike of 1894?
- 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

- Your students organise the information they have gathered and synthesise what they have found.
- They begin to decide (either individually, in small groups or as a whole class) what the focus of their performance will be – an existing song or poem, or something they will create themselves.
- If your students decide to create their own song or poem, discuss the types of symbols they might include and encourage them to play the Aussie Clue Cracker game to help stimulate their thinking.

DISCUSS and Make Connections

- As your students complete this task, they will be making connections with information they have gathered and their own prior knowledge.

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER



Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – The place of song and poetry
as icons of what it means to be Australian

- As your students begin to shape their new thoughts and ideas, and decide on what they are going to produce (a performance of an already existing poem or song or creation of a new one), they will begin to develop their learning artefact.
- Throughout this process, encourage your students to share their new ideas and plans with others and to compare notes, discuss conclusions, and share their experiences.
- When their song/poem planning has been completed, ask your students to present their performance to the whole class.

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 - *How does song and poetry help me to understand what it means to be Australian?* – and encourage them to share what they know now.
- Ask your students to reflect on how they used the Aussie Clue Cracker and other resources, what they found, the conclusions they made, the observations they took and how their song or poem utilised symbolism to depict what being Australian means to them.
- 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.
- Fact sheets on Australians national symbols may be downloaded from www.itsanhonour.gov.au

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER



Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – The place of song and poetry
as icons of what it means to be Australian

- Advance Australia Fair.org
<http://advanceaustraliafair.org/>
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – National Anthem
http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/nat_anthem.html

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER

Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – The place of song and poetry
as icons of what it means to be Australian

Worksheet 1 – The Australian national Anthem: Advance Australia Fair

The Australian National Anthem is the first and third verses of the song 'Advance Australia Fair' which was composed by Peter Dodds McCormick.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Permission to reproduce the Commonwealth Coat of Arms
granted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.