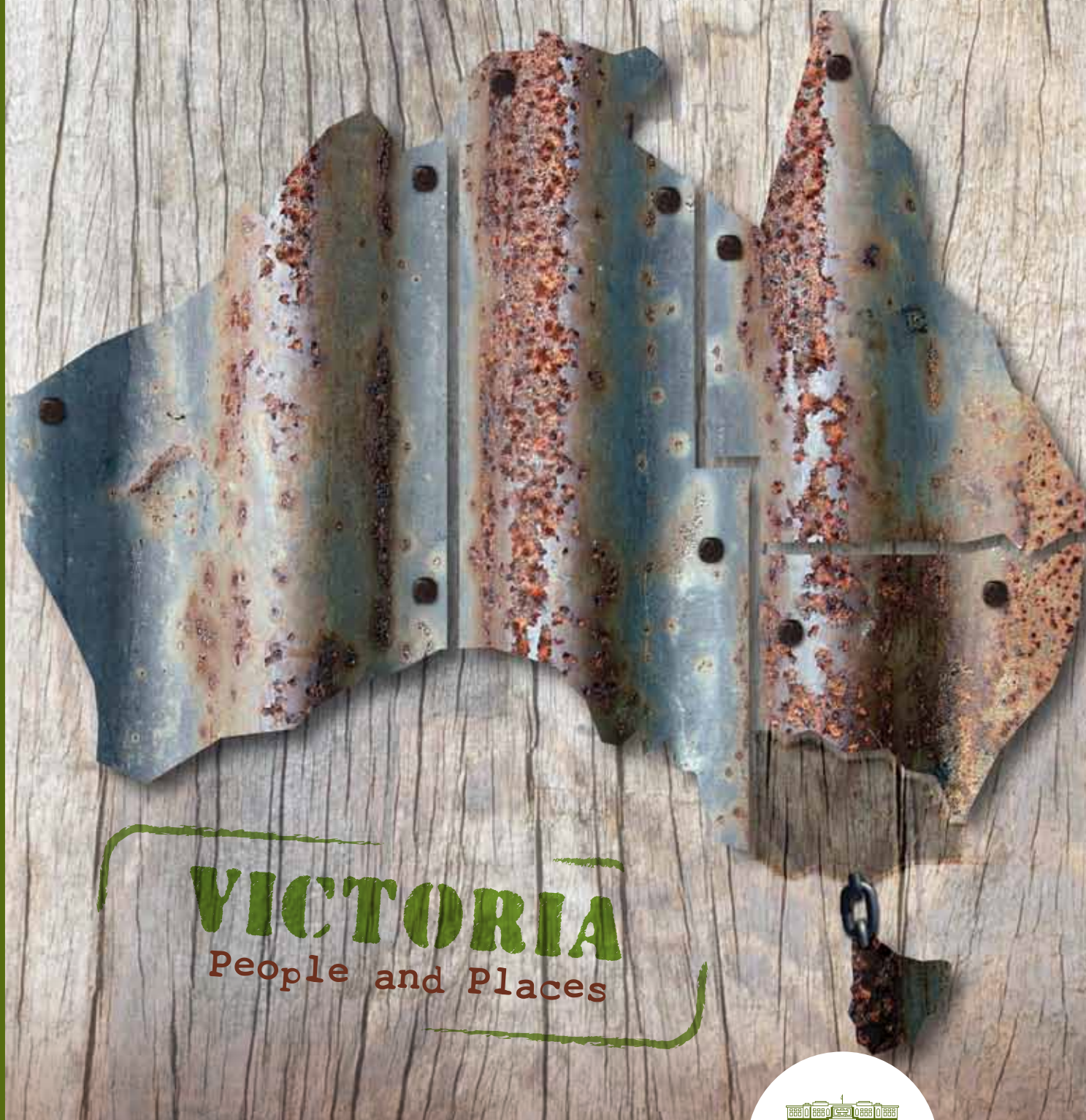


GETTING IT TOGETHER

From Colonies to Federation



VICTORIA
People and Places



MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRACY

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

INVESTIGATIONS OF
AUSTRALIA'S JOURNEY
TO NATIONHOOD
FOR THE MIDDLE
YEARS CLASSROOM

MOAD
LEARNING

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Designed by Deanna Vener

People and Places

The colony of Victoria, like Queensland, was named after Queen Victoria. She ruled the British Empire – including the six Australian colonies – from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22 January 1901. Her reign lasted 63 years and seven months.

Before the first British settlers arrived in Victoria, Indigenous Australians had already lived there for thousands of years. They had established ways of land management that allowed their communities to thrive. But, this changed dramatically for the worse as British settlement became established in the colony.






Victoria's first, short-lived British settlement was in 1803 when Lieutenant-Governor David Collins set up a camp at Sullivan Bay, just inside Port Philip Bay. The oldest permanent European settlement was established along the colony's west coast at Portland in 1834. The land around Portland and Warrnambool was eventually occupied by farmers and graziers who were attracted by the rich grasslands.

At this time, Victoria was part of New South Wales, and was known as the Port Philip District. Victoria became a separate colony in 1851, and in 1855 it achieved responsible government, with a parliament elected by the people. Prior to this, Governors were appointed by the British Government to rule the colony.

Wool was the most significant rural industry for many years, but the discovery of gold in 1851 brought enormous social and political change. Victoria's population grew from 77,000 people in 1851 to 540,000 in 1861 as eager gold miners from Europe, China and other Australian colonies surged to the new goldfields. By the mid-1850s, Victoria had become the most populous of the Australian colonies.

Formed in 1871, the Australian Natives Association became very influential and was a powerful voice in favour of Federation. Membership was restricted to Australian-born offspring of British ancestry. By 1901, with 484,103 residents, Melbourne had the largest population of the six colonies' major cities, a distinction it held until 1905. During the 1890s' depression, it reverted to being the second most populous colony after New South Wales.

Investigations

-  1. What was life like in Victoria in the late 1800s?
-  2. What were Victorians like in the late 1800s?
-  3. What was the Australian Natives Association?
-  4. Who were some Victorian political figures that played a role in the Federation movement?
-  5. Who were some of the Victorian women that made important contributions to social and political change in the late 1800s?

INVESTIGATION 1

What was life like in Victoria in the late 1800s?

Victoria was a very prosperous colony following the discovery of gold in 1854. Taxes collected from decades of gold mining meant that Melbourne was able to build many fine buildings, which still stand today. These include Parliament House, The (Old) Treasury Building, Law Courts, Melbourne Town Hall, the General Post Office and the Royal Exhibition Building, which was used to host the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 1

- photographs: Melbourne
- accounts: Melbourne, Bendigo, Echuca and Portland
- film clip: 'Melbourne buildings' from 'marvellous' Melbourne: Queen city of the south

9 May 1901. Gold-mining towns, such as Bendigo, had also flourished as a result of Victoria's gold rush. The rich grasslands around Portland had been settled by farmers and graziers; Echuca, along the Murray River, for example, became a thriving river port. In many ways, we can only imagine what the colony was like so long ago. However, there are photographs from which we can draw information, along with reports and stories in which writers of the time vividly conveyed details and impressions of people and places.

Your task

Explore the similarities and differences between life in Melbourne and life in other parts of Victoria in the late 1800s.

Activities

1. As a class, look at the photographs of Melbourne and read the accounts of Melbourne, Bendigo, Echuca and Portland. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of any words you don't know.

You may want to view the film clip 'Melbourne buildings' at <http://australianscreen.com.au/titles/marvellous-melbourne/clip2>. You may also use the National Library of Australia's Picture Australia website www.pictureaustralia.org to locate other photographs of Melbourne, Bendigo, Echuca and Portland in the late 1800s.

2. Form small groups. Re-read the description of Melbourne. Discuss the following questions and record your answers.

- Why might George Augustus Sala have referred to Melbourne as being 'marvellous'?
- In terms of town planning, how was Melbourne different to Sydney? What evidence is there to suggest the original town planners had foresight and were forward-thinkers?
- What types of occupations existed in Melbourne in the late 1880s?
- What might you see, hear, feel and smell if you were living in Melbourne in the late 1800s? Record your responses on an X-chart.
- How do your answers help you to build up a picture about the way of life in Melbourne at the time?

3. In your groups, re-read the descriptions of Bendigo, Echuca and Portland. Discuss the following questions and record your answers. Although the accounts were written in the 1890s, they refer to earlier times in the towns' histories.

- What information about each town's past can you identify?
- What types of occupations existed in Bendigo, Echuca and Portland in the late 1800s?
- What might you see, hear, feel and smell if you were living in Bendigo, Echuca and Portland in the late 1800s? Use an X-chart to record your responses.
- How are the three towns unique? What do they have in common?
- How do your answers help you to build up a picture about the way of life outside Melbourne at the time?

4. Use your responses to create a Venn diagram to identify the similarities and differences between the lives of people in Melbourne and the lives of people in other parts of Victoria in the late 1800s.

- What are the differences? What are the similarities?
- Would they have had the same kinds of hopes?
- How would their opportunities have been different?

Share your Venn diagrams with the rest of the class.

INVESTIGATION 2

What were Victorians like in the late 1800s?

In the 1890s, Australian-born Victorians became the dominant group in the colony. Before this time, the population had been mainly made up of people who had come to the colony from Britain. Although Indigenous Australians had lived in Victoria for thousands of years, their population began to fall with the arrival of European settlers in the 1830s. For the 1901 census, the *Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia* recorded that the number of Indigenous people remaining in Victoria 'was only 271'. Records related to Indigenous Australians' place of birth, where they lived or their occupations were not recorded in official figures collected by the Commonwealth of Australia.

Your task

Examine where the Victorians of 1901 were born, where they lived and how they were employed.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 2

- data: birthplaces, population distribution and occupation for Victorians in 1901

Activities

1. As a class, examine the data about people living in Victoria in 1901.
 - Make a list of the most striking or surprising things that you notice when you look at the graphs.
 - Why do the things on the list surprise you?
 - Was there any data contained in the graphs that did not surprise you?

2. Form small groups. Discuss the following questions about Victorians in 1901, and record your answers.

- Where were most Victorians born?
- Where were most Victorians living? What percentage of the population was living outside Melbourne?
- How were Victorians employed in 1901? What were the most common occupations? What were the least common?

3. In your small groups, use evidence to support your hypotheses when discussing the following questions.

- Would communication among the people of Victoria have been easy? Consider the languages spoken by people born in Australia and overseas.
- Would the types of occupations that people had be influenced by where they lived?
- Would the people of Victoria have been connected by one or more common interests? What might those interests have been? Consider where Victorians were born, where they lived and what they did for a living.

4. Reflect upon the census data you have just examined. These characteristics will help you to build up an image of the typical Victorian in the late 1800s. Select one of the following options for depicting the typical Victorian:

- a drawing a diary entry a poem
- a song a figurine a short story

When deciding how to depict the typical Victorian from the 1800s, think about which characteristics will be clearly stated and which ones will be implied through written or visual symbolism.

INVESTIGATION 3

What was the Australian Natives Association?

The Australian Natives Association began in Melbourne in April 1871. It started as a 'friendly society' to provide medical insurance and friendship to its members. Its membership was restricted to Australian-born, white men. Women and Indigenous Australians were not allowed to join. Most of the Association's branches were in Victoria. It would go on to organise and provide funds for the federation leagues. These leagues would lead the campaign for Federation of the six Australian colonies. By 1900, the Association had around 17,000 members, mainly in Victoria.

Your task

Explore how an organisation such as the Australian Natives Association encouraged pride in an Australian identity.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 3

- membership certificate: Australian Natives Association

Activities

1. Examine the Australian Natives Association certificate. Form small groups to discuss the following questions and record your responses.
 - Why do you think the words 'prosperity', 'unity' and 'peace' appear on the membership certificate?
 - What symbols and images on the certificate show that the Association was proudly Australian?
 - What evidence is there to suggest that the Association supported the Federation of the six Australian colonies?

Share your responses with the class.

2. Individually or with a partner, design two Victorian membership certificates – one for people living in Victoria in the late 1800s, and one for people living in Victoria today. When developing your certificates, consider:

- the sorts of things that were important and valued by the people of Victoria in the past;
- the sorts of things that are important and valued by the people of Victoria today; and
- the words and pictures you can use to illustrate your ideas.

3. Share your membership certificates with the class. Provide reasons for the words and pictures that you have included. Have the list of things that are important and valued stayed the same or changed over time? Why might this be the case?

INVESTIGATION 4

Who were some Victorian political figures that played a role in the Federation movement?

Although most Victorians consistently supported the idea of the colonies federating, those in the Victorian Government became more cautious as firm plans for the Commonwealth developed. As elected politicians, these men had a special responsibility to work for the best interests of Victoria. They had to understand any issues and questions relating to Federation that might be of particular concern to people in the colony. Victorian politicians, Alfred Deakin and John Quick, were two of the most active supporters of Federation. They gave public speeches, attended conferences and wrote articles arguing in favour of joining the new Commonwealth. Isaac Isaacs and Victorian Premier, George Turner also

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 4

- biography: John Quick
- biography: Alfred Deakin
- biography: Sir George Turner
- biography: Isaac Isaacs

campaigning strongly for Federation, even though they initially had some reservations.

What qualities do you think these leaders would have needed to be effective in guiding Victoria towards Federation?

Your task

Discover the values, leadership qualities and motivations of four Victorian political leaders in the late 1800s.

Activities

1. As a class, brainstorm a list of the values that you imagine must motivate strong political leaders. The nine *Values for Australian Schooling* may be used as a starting point. Go to www.valueseducation.edu.au. Then, click on 'National', followed by 'National Framework: Nine Values for Australian Schooling'. Brainstorm a second list of leadership qualities. It might be useful to have some leaders in mind when creating this list.
2. Form groups of four. Each group member will be responsible for reading one of the biographies of Victorian leaders in the late 1800s. Your task is to identify your person's values and leadership qualities. As you read the biography, consider why you believe specific facts or events are examples of a value or leadership quality.

3. Read your person's biography to your group. Explain the values and leadership qualities that you have identified. Be prepared to justify your observations, if required.
4. As a class, make a list of the possible motivations John Quick, Alfred Deakin, George Turner and Isaac Isaacs might have had for wanting to make a difference in Victoria, and in supporting Federation. There are no right or wrong answers, but you need to be able to justify your suggestions based on the biographies that you have explored.

INVESTIGATION 5

Who were some of the Victorian women that made important contributions to social and political change in the late 1800s?

There were no female members of Parliament in the Australian colonies in the 1880s. The women of Victoria did not win the right to vote in State elections until 1908, making Victoria the final Australian State to grant that right to women. At the time of Federation, the only women with the right to vote were those living in South Australia (from 1894) and Western Australia (from 1899). Yet, despite such obstacles, a number of Victorian women played a significant role in bringing social and political change to the colony. Some of these women are still well-known today because of their commitment to democratic values and their work to improve people's lives and build a better future for Victoria.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 5

▪ biography: Vida Goldstein

internet access


library access

Your task

Investigate the lives and work of several prominent women of the late 1880s, and how they worked to bring about change.

Activities

1. As a class, read the biography of Vida Goldstein. List the issues that she was concerned about. What significant actions did she take to enable her to make a difference to society? What values and leadership qualities did she display by her decisions and actions?
2. In groups, research Annette Bear-Crawford, Margaret McLean and Henrietta (Harriet) Dugdale. These women made a difference to society in Victoria, and eventually the nation as a whole, in the late 1880s. What significant actions did these prominent women take, which enabled them to make a difference to society? What values and leadership qualities did they display by their decisions and actions? Share your research with the class.
3. Work in pairs. Choose one of the women you both admire. Imagine that you are journalists working in Melbourne in the late 1880s. Prepare a series of questions that you would like to ask the woman you have chosen. If necessary, do further research on her life so that you understand her background, challenges and achievements. Combine your questions so that you have a final list of 10.
4. Decide which of you will play the subject and which will play the journalist. Conduct an interview as a role-play for the rest of the class. Try to imagine how the woman would look, how she would sound and how she would speak. Think of what would make her happy, sad, proud or angry. Ensure that the interview includes opportunities for her to express her hopes for the future of the nation, and what her opinion of Federation is.



What are you thinking now?

Now that you have completed the investigations in People and Places, use your knowledge to explore connections to your life today. Do one or more of the following activities.

1. A country is usually made up of many different people and places. Think about Australia today. Brainstorm the differences among the States, and among different groups of people throughout the country. Then, list things that the people of Australia have in common. Write a paragraph or design a poster describing ways that unity can be maintained in a country such as Australia that also supports and encourages diversity.

2. In a democracy such as Australia, leaders come from all walks of life. What kind of experiences or jobs do you think are important to develop a person's leadership characteristics? Use the internet, newspapers, magazines or a digital camera to gather images of people in different situations where they are shown developing leadership skills. Create a class poster or a web page displaying the images and listing the leadership characteristics, values and skills being demonstrated.

RESOURCE SHEET 1

Select account of Melbourne

Melbourne

Melbourne, to which George Augustus Sala, when in this country, applied the prefix of 'marvellous', which has stuck, is one of the most regularly-laid-out cities in the world. In this it differs widely from Sydney which was practically laid out by bullock-drivers, when they made their tracks through the scrub. The original plan of Melbourne provided for wide streets, each a mile long and a chain and a half wide, running parallel with the Yarra River, at intervals of an eighth of a mile; but when Governor Bourke saw the plans which his surveyors had drawn up, he considered that the blocks so formed were too large, and so a compromise was effected by running lanes between all the transverse streets, with the object of giving access to the back yards.

It is needless to say that, as the city grew, these were diverted from their original purposes, and became streets themselves. Little Flinders Street, now generally known as 'The Lane', is a street of great warehouses, in which is done the chief wholesale business of the city, especially in soft goods. In a cottage of two rooms, in this lane, was opened the first bank in Victoria, the little branch of the Bank of Australasia ...

Collins Street ... is one of the finest thoroughfares in the world ... At one end of Collins Street are the residences of leading doctors, forming quite a medical quarter. In the street are the finest shops in Melbourne, and here are splendid newspaper offices, banks, insurance offices, and great places of general business as well as churches and palatial hotels ...

Melbourne, like other of the great Australian cities, is happy in the possession of some very fine parks and public gardens, which are highly appreciated by residents and visitors. One of the finest is the Fitzroy Gardens, which occupy high ground in the very centre of population, and beside the handsome Treasury Gardens, and a number of splendid churches and public buildings. The transformation which has been effected in the site of these gardens would amaze any old resident of Melbourne, could he return after a long absence.

ED Hoben, *Glimpses of Australia. An Album of Photographic Gems. Volume II*, Gordon and Gotch, Melbourne, 1897.

RESOURCE SHEET 1 continued

Flinders Lane, looking west from Swanston Street, Melbourne, 1895



State Library of Victoria, H82.246/3.

Collins Street near Queen Street, Melbourne, c 1895



F Boileau, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an3366506-s15-a1.

RESOURCE SHEET 1 *continued*

Select accounts of Bendigo, Echuca and Portland

Bendigo

Bendigo, is a very fine city, famous in the goldfield annals of Victoria. Originally, like all of these fields, the rush was caused by alluvial discoveries, but as the fields developed, it became almost wholly quartz-reefing ... The city is particularly well built, and presents some very fine examples of architecture and city views. One of the finest is Pall Mall and the buildings around that handsome centre, and it is here that the imposing fountain ... is situated. The Pall Mall is the main street. On one side of it is umbrageous reserve known as Rosalind Park, with its leafy avenues and smooth swards. On the other are great buildings of brick and stone, including the splendid Government Offices and Law Courts.

ED Hoben, *Glimpses of Australia. An Album of Photographic Gems. Volume II*, Gordon and Gotch, Melbourne, 1897.

Echuca

Echuca is an important town on a peninsula formed by the Murray and Campaspe rivers, some 156 miles north of Melbourne. Originally it was a great stock crossing place between New South Wales and Victoria ... In the present day it is an important town, a centre of railway communication and trade, with two newspapers, and all the appurtenances of urban existence. It is the centre of trade along the river, which is carried on by the big barges ... and by river steamers. Some of the river steamers are themselves perambulating stores, in which their owners go round to their customers and whistle for them to come down to the banks and step into the floating shop to buy, and the fair sex in the remoter Murray district take just as keen a pleasure in their shopping thus as their sisters of Sydney or Melbourne.

ED Hoben, *Glimpses of Australia. An Album of Photographic Gems. Volume II*, Gordon and Gotch, Melbourne, 1897.

Portland

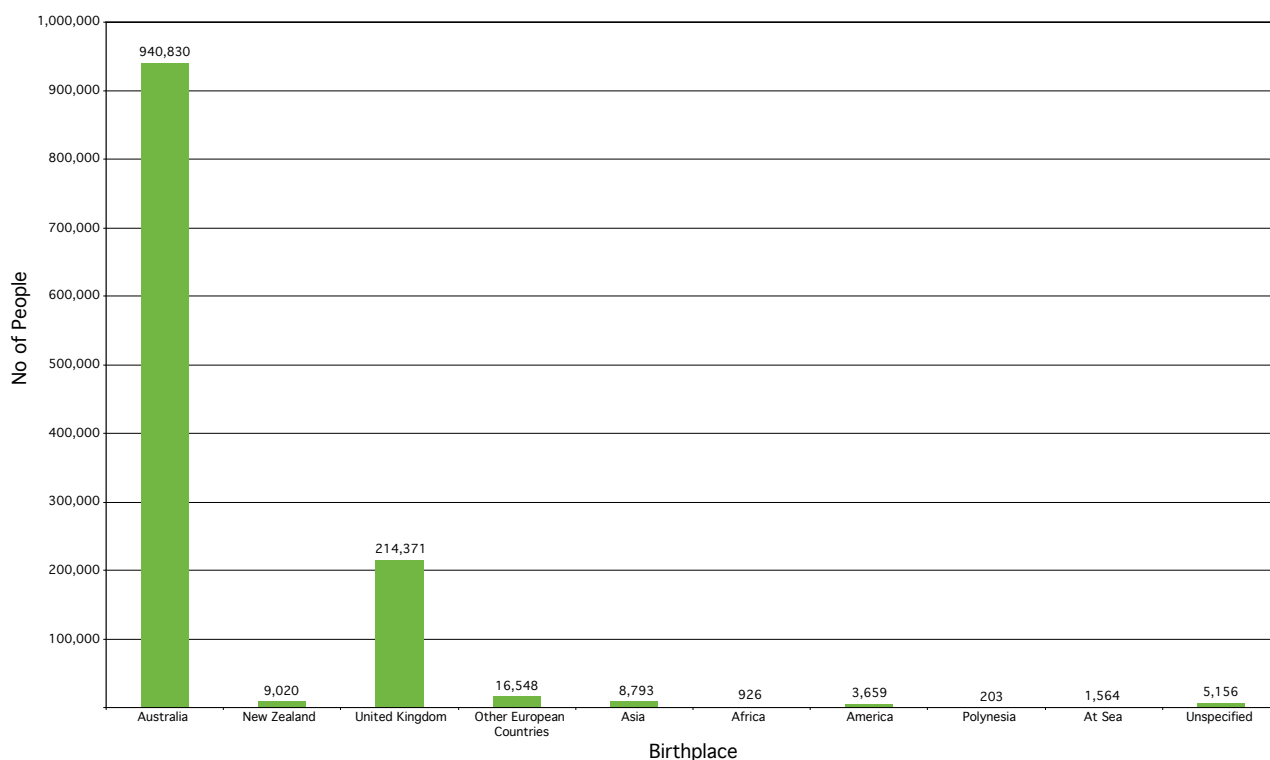
The most fertile and prosperous of the country parts of Victoria is the rich agricultural western district ... It is highly favoured in all its natural conditions, both as regards soil and climate ... The so-called Bay of Portland scarcely deserves the name of a harbour, but is rather an open roadstead, greatly exposed to stress of weather ... The houses of the town are built chiefly of dark blue-stone, which presents a solid but mournful appearance, except when a bright glow of sunshine is shed over the blue waters of the bay, lighting up the land and sea alike with its cheering rays.

'A Resident', *Glimpses of Life in Victoria*, introduced by Marguerite Hancock, Melbourne University Press, Carlton South, 1876.

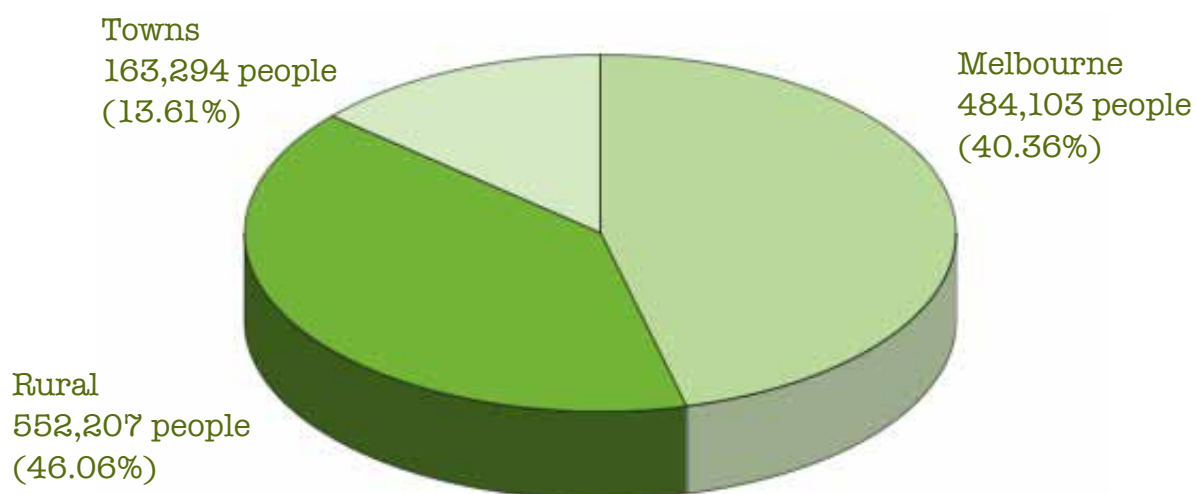
RESOURCE SHEET 2

Victorians in 1901

Birthplaces at census of 31 March 1901

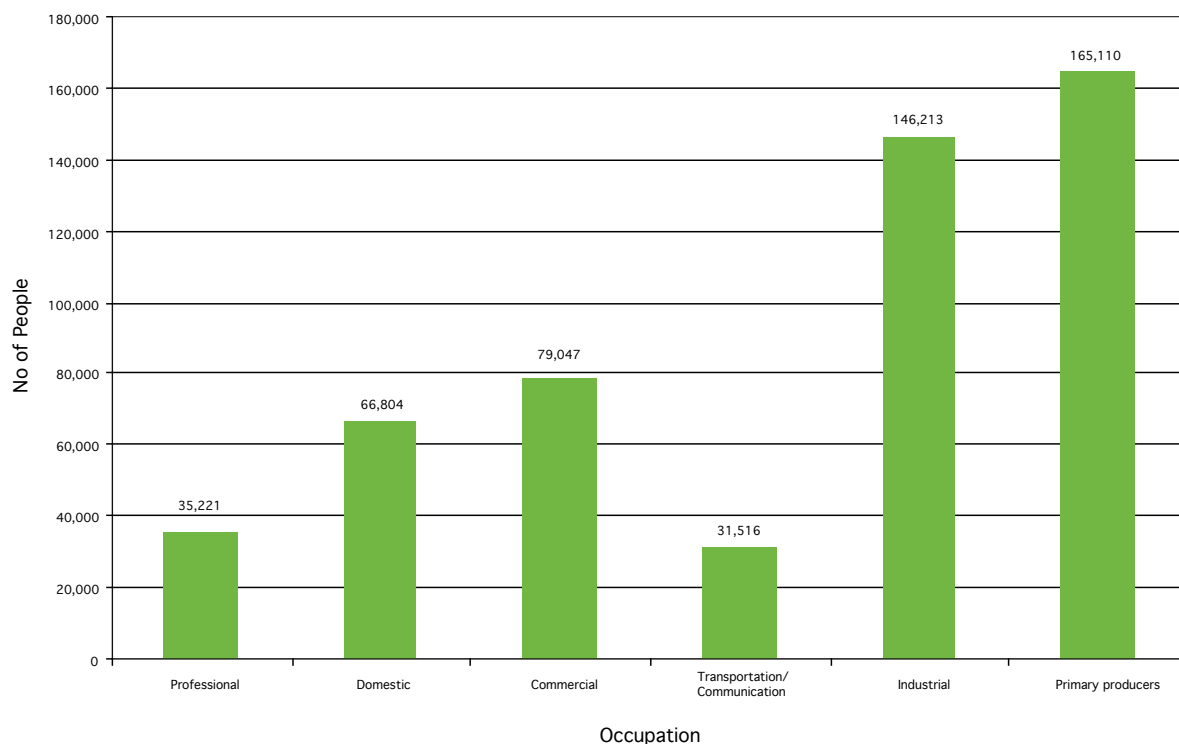


Population distribution at census of 31 March 1901



GH Knibbs, *Official Year Book of The Commonwealth of Australia: Containing authoritative statistics for the period 1901–1907 and corrected statistics for the period 1788 to 1900*, McCarron, Bird & Co, Melbourne, 1908.

Population on 31 March 1901 Classified according to occupation (Victoria)



Professional	Domestic	Commercial	Transportation/ Communication	Industrial	Primary producers
Includes working in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> defence law religion health education 	Includes working in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> domestic services supply of board and lodgings 	Includes working in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> property finance merchants storage sales (food, drink) 	Includes working in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transportation (rail, road, sea and river) traffic communication (telegraph, telephone, postal services) 	Includes working in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction (buildings, rail, roads) energy (fuel, light) production (food, drink, clothing, footwear) 	Includes working in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agriculture rural pursuits fisheries forestry mining water supply

GH Knibbs, *Official Year Book of The Commonwealth of Australia: Containing authoritative statistics for the period 1901–1907 and corrected statistics for the period 1788 to 1900*, McCarron, Bird & Co, Melbourne, 1908.

RESOURCE SHEET 3

Australian Natives Association Certificate of Membership



Australian Natives Association Certificate of Membership, Australian Unity Archives.

RESOURCE SHEET 4

Biography: John Quick (1852-1932)



Portrait of John Quick, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an21399820-31.

John Quick was born in England in 1852. His family came to Australia in 1854, and went to the Bendigo goldfields. John started work in the mines when he was 10 years old. He taught himself shorthand, and later became a reporter for the local paper. After moving to Melbourne, he gained scholarships to go to university and become a lawyer. When he was 28, he became Member for Bendigo.

Quick became a passionate advocate of Federation, and although he was not born in Australia, the Australian Natives Association bent its rules and allowed him to be a member. The Association was a great campaigner for Federation, and Quick established the Bendigo Federation League. In 1893, he was an Australian Natives Association delegate at an informal conference on Federation in Corowa, New South Wales. He played a key part in developing the conference plan, which advocated that the people rather than the parliaments should elect a new Federal Convention and vote on the Constitution. Quick worked hard to have the plan adopted. He was an active participant in drafting the Australian Constitution and was knighted in 1901 for his contribution to Federation.

Quick served in the Commonwealth Parliament from 1901, but was disappointed that he was never made a minister. He was appointed Deputy President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and wrote several books. He died in Melbourne in 1932.

Quick was an early advocate for Federation, speaking in favour of it, as early as 1882. While attending an informal constitutional convention in Corowa in New South Wales in 1893, Quick proposed that a formal national convention needed to be established to address the question of whether the six colonies should unite together as one. Quick's proposal was adopted.

It is only by consistent agitation and discussion that a national question such as this can ever be brought to maturity.

Michele Maslunka, Quick, Sir John (1852–1932), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 11, Melbourne University Press, 1988.

Biography: Alfred Deakin (1856-1919)



Portrait of Alfred Deakin, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an23309831.

Alfred Deakin was the second Prime Minister of Australia. Before that, he led the Federation movement in Victoria. Deakin was born in Melbourne in 1856. He became a lawyer and wrote for *The Age* newspaper. Deakin was clever, handsome and a wonderful speaker. He entered politics at the age of 22, became involved in the Australian Natives Association and was very soon the leader of the reformers in the Victorian Parliament. Though he was an excellent politician, he kept thinking he would give it up and become a writer or a preacher. Deakin was keenly interested in spirituality, and was involved with a number of different spiritual groups and churches throughout his life. He felt that God wanted Australia to be a nation and that he was doing God's will in working for Federation. Deakin was Prime Minister from 1903–04, and then from 1905–08. With the support of the Labor Party, he encouraged Australian industry with tariffs; set decent wages for workers through the Arbitration Court; and planned an Australian navy. As the Labor Party grew stronger, he combined with all other non-Labor politicians in 1909 to form the Liberal Party.

Biography: Federation people: Alfred Deakin, The Learning Federation, L9425.

At an Australian Natives Association banquet in Bendigo in March 1898, Deakin addressed the crowd directly after Victorian politician, Isaac Isaacs had spoken about his reservations regarding the draft Constitution. Making his most famous and celebrated speech, Deakin spoke to the Australian Natives Association members as one Australian to another. His speech received rousing support. Noting the high level of support for Federation, other prominent Victorian politicians then campaigned in its favour.

At a time like the present this association cannot forget its watchword – Federation – or its character, which has never been provincial. It has never been a Victorian, but always an Australian Association. Its hour has now come ... Every branch should be stimulated into action, until, without resorting to any but legitimate means, without any attempt at intimidation, without taking advantage of sectionalism, but in the purest and broadest spirit of Australian unity, all your members unite to awaken this colony to its duty ...

JA La Nauze (ed), Alfred Deakin, *The Federal Story: The Inner History of the Federal Cause 1880–1900*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1963.

Biography: Sir George Turner (1851-1916)



Portrait of Sir George Turner, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an21399820-30.

George Turner was born in Melbourne in 1851. He was a quiet, ordinary man, who came to hold some of the highest positions in the land, gaining great respect. Turner was a lawyer, who entered politics as a reformer. Soon his party chose him to be Premier, as he was a man who could handle the hard times that hit Victoria in the early 1890s. He had the tough job of cutting back spending because the Victorian Government had run out of funds.

Turner was elected to the Federal Convention of 1897–98, where he spoke plainly of difficulties and options. He did not make grand speeches. With his usual care, he took a long time to decide whether Federation would help or damage Victoria. He was worried about the farmers who would no longer be protected by the tax on stock coming into Victoria from New South Wales and Queensland. Alfred Deakin helped persuade him to campaign for the ‘yes’ vote.

Turner was elected to the Commonwealth Parliament in 1901, and became Treasurer in Barton’s Government. To have such a safe and careful man as Treasurer helped people to have faith in the new Government.

Biography: Federation people: George Turner, The Learning Federation, L9737.

Having been convinced that Federation would benefit Victoria, Turner campaigned in favour of it. In April 1898, he spoke in St Kilda to declare his support for the union of the six colonies, to allay community concerns, and to discourage apathy in regard to the forthcoming referendum on the Constitutional Bill.

We [are] not handing over our affairs to a foreign body, but to the management of men chosen from amongst ourselves ... [I have] the utmost confidence and trust in them to do what [is] right and just to all the states ... [Voting ‘Aye’ will weld] these great colonies into a powerful federation—a noble Commonwealth, under that flag which we all respect ... and revere ... the grand old Union Jack.

The Argus, 14 April 1898.

Biography: Isaac Isaacs (1855-1948)



Portrait of Isaac Isaacs, National Library of Australia nla.pic-an21399820-34.

Isaac Isaacs was born in Melbourne in 1855. He was an excellent student, who became a leading lawyer in Melbourne, and a prominent politician in Victoria in the 1890s. Isaacs became Solicitor-General in 1893, and was elected to the Australasian Federal Convention of 1897–98, participating in drafting the Australian Constitution.

He was a member of the Commonwealth Parliament from 1901 to 1906. Alfred Deakin appointed him Attorney-General in 1905, and then to the High Court in 1906. In Isaacs' interpretations of the Constitution, he gave large powers to the Commonwealth at the expense of the States. In 1930, the Scullin Labor Government asked the King to appoint Isaacs as Governor-General. The King wanted a British person, as was tradition, and tried to get Scullin to change his mind. But, Scullin stood firm, and the King, as a constitutional monarch, had to agree. Isaacs did the job well, but non-Labor governments continued to recommend British men to the position of Governor-General until 1965.

Biography: Federation people: Isaac Isaacs, The Learning Federation, L9432.

At an Australian Natives Association (ANA) banquet in Bendigo in March 1898, Isaacs spoke about his reservations regarding the draft Constitution. Although in favour of Federation, he urged the ANA members to vote 'no' at the forthcoming referendum so that the draft Constitution could be considered further. After Isaacs' speech, Alfred Deakin spoke in favour of Federation, receiving rousing support from the ANA. Noting that the mood of the people was in favour of Federation, Isaacs changed course and campaigned hard in support of it. His pro-Federation message, together with his signature, was then printed in the newspaper during the campaign for a united Australia.

Every vote for the Bill is a brick that will help to raise the edifice of the Nation.

Zelman Cowen, Isaacs, Sir Isaac Alfred (1855–1948), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 9, Melbourne University Press, 1983.

RESOURCE SHEET 5

Biography: Vida Goldstein (1869-1949)



Portrait of Vida Goldstein, Swiss Studio, National Library of Australia.

Vida Goldstein was born 1869 in Portland, Victoria. In 1877, her family moved to Melbourne. Her mother and father were both actively involved in social work and reform. Goldstein was educated by a private governess and attended Presbyterian Ladies College from 1884 to 1886.

In 1891, at the age of 21, Goldstein worked with her mother and many other women throughout Victoria, to collect 30,000 signatures in support of women's right to vote. This came to be known as the 'monster petition'. It stated 'that government of the People, by the People and for the People, should mean all the People, and not one-half'. In 1902, Australia became the first nation in the world to give women the right to vote in federal elections. At the time of Federation, only women in South Australia and Western Australia had the right to vote in State elections. The women of Victoria were the last to win that right, in 1908.

Goldstein was very interested in politics. She became involved with the United Council for Women's Suffrage, founded by Annette Bear-Crawford. This group formed to unite all the various women's organisations working for the same causes. After Bear-Crawford's

death, Goldstein became leader. She also owned and edited the newspaper, *Women's Sphere*. She was outspoken on public control of public utilities, equal pay and workers' rights. She was involved in many women's organisations, including the National Council of Women, the Victorian Women's Public Servants Association and the Women's Writers' Club. Goldstein was the first woman in the British Empire to stand for election to a national Parliament in 1902. She made several unsuccessful attempts as an independent candidate to run for office, both for the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Goldstein never ceased working for the causes that she believed in. During World War I, she was a pacifist and formed the Women's Peace Army to oppose the war. She died in Melbourne in 1949. In 1984, a federal electorate of Victoria was named Goldstein in her honour.

Vida Goldstein ran for office several times using these occasions to publicly express her opinions.

I accepted nomination because I saw what a splendid educational value the campaign would have. I knew I would attract much larger audiences as a candidate than if I were advertised to give a lecture on women's part in the federal elections, or some such subject. I believed that people would come to my meetings out of curiosity to see the wild woman who sought to enter Parliament.

Cited in Leslie M Henderson, *The Goldstein Story*, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 1973.