



Indigenous Rights and Freedoms – An experience of Democracy *Teacher Resource*

The resource *Indigenous Rights and Freedoms – An experience of Democracy* is an introduction to the history of Indigenous rights and freedoms through the lens of those associated with Old Parliament House. It focuses on authentic stories of people who worked in the building, visited the building, and campaigned in the building for change. It is not designed to be a comprehensive record of indigenous history.

It is suggested that this resource be used as an overview of content to allow for further in-depth research and analysis.

The resource explores content related to the following themes and people:

- Indigenous history of the area of Canberra
- Opening day 1927 – Jimmy Clements and John Knoble
- Rights and freedoms in our democracy – freedom of speech to effect change
- Federal Parliament – Senator Neville Bonner, 1962 Voting reforms, 1976 Aboriginal Land Rights Act
- Expression of voice – 1938 Day of Mourning Protest, 1966 – Wave Hill Walk Off, 1972 - Aboriginal Tent Embassy
- Use of the media to effect change – Charlie Perkins
- Constitutional change and the 1967 Referendum - Faith Bandler
- National Apology to the Stolen Generations 2008

Pause points for student discussion:

During the 25-minute program there are pause points to allow for student reflection and discussion. Teachers may wish to pause the recording at the following times:

2.48 – *Front steps* – Do you know of any Indigenous language groups in your region?

5.28 – *Kings Hall* – How can you express your voice in our democracy?

9.40 – *Senate Chamber* – Do you think our current Parliament is diverse?

14.50 – *Prime Minister's Office* - What do you think Wenten Rubuntja was trying to achieve by using the Churinga in his discussions with Malcolm Fraser?

23.13 – *Front steps* - How have things changed for Indigenous people in Australia's democracy? How and why were changes made? Who were some of the key people who made change possible?

24.56 – *Front steps* - What might the next steps towards reconciliation look like?



Suggested extension activities:

1. Research the history of the language groups in your local area.
2. Use a source analysis tool such as NACHOS/similar to analyse some of the newspaper articles referred to in this video resource (see explanation of NACHOS and the article list below).
3. Consider Parliamentary diversity and representation by analysing Michael Cook's work [Majority Rule – Senate](#) #2014-0151. What comment is being made by the artist? Has diversity in our Parliament changed?
4. How has the right of freedom of speech in our democracy provided an opportunity for people to use their voice to affect change – consider different formats, for example [wearing badges](#).
5. Consider the [Freedom Ride 2011 Petition Book](#), and the [message stick](#) which are part of the MoAD collection. What do these objects tell us about democracy and Indigenous constitutional recognition?

NACHOS – a source analysis tool (tes.com):

Nature - How is this type of text useful?

Author – Who is the author? Are they an expert?

Content – What is this source saying?

Happening – When does this source date to? When did this happen?

Omitted – What are some limitations of this source? What are some weaknesses?

Special Reason – What is the sources motive?

Articles used in the video resource:

Opening of Federal Parliament, Tue 10 May 1927, The Mercury,

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/29672476>

100,000 Sign Petition on Aboriginals, 19 April, 1963, The Canberra Times

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/104250620>

Call for Referendum on Aboriginal Rights, 30 September, 1964, Tribune

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article236849205>

Student ride to tell of Aboriginal misery, 13 February 1965, The Canberra Times

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/105828821>



Student's "amazed" at Aboriginal support, 3 March 1965, Tribune

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/236350739>

Is our Constitution fair to Aboriginals?, 3 May 1965, Tharunka

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article230413250>

'Yes or No' - your decision on May 27, 1 May 1967, Good Neighbour

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/176531600/20745865>

"Let's tell the world there's only one Australian..." 10 May 1967, The Australian Women's Weekly

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/4833280>

Big Smiles For The "Yes" Vote, 28 June 1967, Australian Women's Weekly

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/42114052>

Aborigines walk off jobs, 27 July 1968, The Canberra Times

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107064837>

Aboriginal wins selection to Senate, 25 May 1971, The Canberra Times

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131808451>

Aboriginal land rights rejected, 22 October 1971, The Canberra Times

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110683167>

ALICE SPRINGS ACTION, 24 March 1976, Tribune

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/236923412/>

Pastoral areas to Aborigines 'if deemed traditional', 16 June 1976, The Canberra Times

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/131823189>

Aboriginal leaders plan tour on land rights, 28 February 1978, The Canberra Times

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/131718362>



Australian Curriculum Links

Cross Curriculum Priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

- O1.4 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies have many Language Groups.
- O1.6 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples live in Australia as first peoples of Country or Place and demonstrate resilience in responding to historic and contemporary impacts of colonisation.
- O1.9 - The significant contributions of Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the present and past are acknowledged locally, nationally and globally.

Civics and Citizenship

Year 8

- ACHK061 - The freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement
- ACHK066 - Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, and what it means to be Australian

Year 9

- ACHCK079 - Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, and what it means to be Australian

Year 10

- ACHCK094 - The challenges to and ways of sustaining a resilient democracy and cohesive society

Year 10 History

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

- ACDSEH104 - Background to the struggle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for rights and freedoms before 1965, including the 1938 Day of Mourning and the Stolen Generations
- ACDSEH106 - The significance of the following for the civil rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: 1962 right to vote federally; 1967 Referendum; Reconciliation; Mabo decision; Bringing Them Home Report (the Stolen Generations), the Apology
- ACDSEH134 - Methods used by civil rights activists to achieve change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and the role of ONE individual or group in the struggle