Going back in time…

Old Parliament House is the home of the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD).

Using this resource – let’s go back in time to discover some interesting facts about this important building and what decisions were made here.

Access to the PDF resource is available at:

Suggested activities:

A. What do you know already?
   - Have students do a think/pair/share activity of prior knowledge. They could record this under sub-headings for example – information that they know, information that they think they know (but are not 100% sure of), information they would like to know more about.
     - Individually – write down all they know about Old Parliament House (could include its purpose, dates, people, events, changes, current use etc)
     - Compare list with a friend
     - Share information with another pair or the whole class combines information to record a summary of what students know already
   - They could also create a list of inquiry questions – eg Why was Old Parliament House built in Canberra? Why are there two chambers in Parliament House?

B. Group summary
   - Split the class into 4 groups.
   - Allocate each group one of the following sections in the Resource:
     1) The Building – p4-10
     2) The Events – p11-15
     3) The Decisions – p16-19
     4) The Prime Ministers – p20-25
   - In their groups, students spend time reading their allocated sections. Depending on the group size, you may wish to allocate pages within each section to individuals in the groups.
   - As they read students are to summarise the information – recording key points, dates, names of individuals, events
   - Summaries may take a variety of formats. Some suggestions include:
     - A4 summaries to hang up in the class (either hand done or electronically done)
A Padlet document (where groups contribute to an electronic record of the information, https://padlet.com/)
o A google doc, collaborative summary
o A creative presentation response – eg: a rap song summarising key information, an iMovie, a PowerPoint or Prezzi

C. Class timeline

• Create a class timeline in the classroom that shows key dates/individuals/events from the Resource.
• Add pictures to the timeline.
• Have students investigate further information/add greater depth to areas of interest: https://www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/resources/exploring-democracy/

D. How good were your notes? Crossword time.

• After activities B and/or C – students can work in pairs/groups to complete the Crossword
• If need be students can return to the Resource to check on answers or obtain more information