

Democracy Online Program

Lesson Plan

The Democracy program is approximately one hour long and designed specifically for Year 5 students. The program provides activities and information to develop an understanding of our Australian democracy.

Learning intentions

Students will:

- Develop an understanding and appreciation of living in our Australian democracy.
- Investigate some of the key values that underpin our democracy including freedom, equality, fairness, respect and justice.
- Explore examples of how the values are practiced in our Australian democracy.

Outcomes

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define what democracy is.
- Understand the features that uphold our Australian democracy such as the Constitution, voting, voices and values.

Resources required for this lesson

- Smartboard or projector and screen
- Students own devices e.g. laptops or tablets (optional)
- Internet connection

Western Australian curriculum links

Curriculum Code	Knowledge & Understanding
Year 5 Humanities & Social Sciences (HASS)	
WA5HKUC1	The key values and features of Australia's democracy.

Curriculum links are taken from: <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/humanities-and-social-sciences#year-5-syllabus>

Lesson Plan for Democracy Online Program

Stage of Lesson	Time
Introduction	
<p>What do you know about Democracy?</p> <p>As a class, brainstorm the question “What do you know about democracy”? Think-pair-share and class discussion. Review the information from the start of the online program. Discuss the origins of democracy coming from Ancient Greece and define what democracy is.</p>	6 minutes
Main Body	
<p>Democracy through time – timeline</p> <p>In this activity, students will look at different moments in time which have influenced Australia’s democracy.</p> <p>Split students into pairs or groups of three. There are six key historical dates listed that mark interesting democratic milestones to look at; including 507 BC, 1215, 1901, 1902, 1962-1967, and Today. Allocate one date to each group and ask them to read their section together and find one or two interesting details to share with the class. Please note that the 1962-67 section is more detailed so assigning two groups to this section is recommended.</p> <p>Discuss democracy in Australia today- has it improved? Are there still more improvements needed?</p>	10 minutes
<p>Activity 1 - The pillars of our democracy</p> <p>In this activity students will learn about the four pillars that uphold Australian democracy. Ask various students to read out each infographic. Use the discussion suggestions below for each infographic.</p> <p><u>Constitution Pillar:</u> Discuss a few more details about the Constitution. Why do we have a written Constitution? Why is it a good thing that we have one? How do we change the Constitution? Why is it a good thing/bad thing that it is difficult to change? (We have to have a referendum to change the words of the Constitution. Since 1901, there has been 44 proposed changes and only 8 successful changes made to the Constitution).</p>	12 -15 minutes

<p>What else do students know about Federal Parliament? Other questions to discuss include: Who is the current Prime Minister? What political party is the Prime Minister the leader of? Who/What is the Opposition? Who is the leader of the Opposition?</p> <p><u>Voting Pillar:</u> Who can vote? Have you seen an election in your local community or a state election?</p> <p><u>Voices Pillar:</u> Have you seen people protesting? What kind of issues have people been protesting about lately? What are other ways people let the government know if they are not happy with something? What are some examples of freedom of speech and expression? For example, people can express themselves through music, film or art and through social media.</p> <p><u>Values Pillar:</u> What are some important values to you? Students and teacher share some values that they find important.</p> <p>Knowledge Check</p> <p>Ask students to individually complete the knowledge check (4 questions) to see what they can recall. Or complete as a class.</p>	
<p>Activity 2 - Building blocks of Australia's democracy</p> <p>This activity looks at some of the characteristics of Australia's democracy. Students have a choice of two statements and need to decide which one applies to Australia's democracy. There are 9 statement pairs in total. In pairs, ask students to read the buttons out loud to the class or each other (if have own devices) and decide which statement they think is correct. Students click the correct button. If correct, the buttons will move to the next pair of buttons, if incorrect, students will be asked to try again. Alternately, students could complete individually.</p> <p>Freedoms</p> <p>Read through each of the five freedom buttons and the definition. Discuss examples of each freedom.</p>	6 minutes
<p>Activity 3 - Democratic Values</p> <p>This activity explores five values that underpin Australia's democracy. Ask students to recall what the term "value" means. Ask students to read through the online values cards independently, in small groups or as a class.</p> <p>Complete the drag and drop activity as a class. Ask students what value does the picture represent? As a class, answer the questions for each value as you progress. Discuss what examples of each value they can think of within their classroom, school, home or local community? As an extra activity have the values written up and place around the classroom. Ask students to stand near the value that means the most to them and discuss why they chose the particular value.</p>	10-15 minutes

Conclusion	
<p>Activity 4 - Democracy Duel</p> <p>During this activity students recall the main concepts explored in the previous activities. There are three rounds where students have to drag and drop the correct answers into the circle. If the answer is correct, it will change colour, if incorrect, it will change to an emoji. Scroll down to attempt the next question. Split the class into three groups and each group can participate in one round. Keep a tally of points.</p>	10-15 minutes



Find us on



WA.gov.au

 The Constitutional Centre of WA

Produced by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet 2026.

Acknowledgement of Country The Department of the Premier and Cabinet acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.