

# Multiculturalism in Australia

## Student Workbook



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**EQ: What different perspectives are there about Australia's national identity?**

### Success Criteria:

- I can *describe* features of Australia's national identity
- I can *explain* the concept of **multiculturalism**.
- I can *explain* how multiculturalism has impacted Australia's changing **national identity**.
- I can *identify* migrant **stereotypes** in Australian pop culture.
- I can *identify and describe* **Australian values**.
- I can *evaluate* whether Australian Values apply to all who live here.

# Australia's National Identity

There is an elusive quality, a 'national identity', which binds us all as Australians. Or is there? This is for you to explore and assess (make a final judgement on).

There are certainly **national cultural stereotypes** and **national symbols** that we all recognise as Australian, but do these really reflect the everyday reality of living as an Australian today? Do national identities ever have anything to do with cultural experience or are they more to do with a constructed image of a 'nation'? What is it about our cultural stereotypes, if anything, that continues to resonate with Australians? Who is excluded? Does our national identity still depend upon a white British settler viewpoint? Or is multicultural? Does it focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities? Should it change? What do you think?

Look at the following images (right) and describe them with a one or two words label e.g. war soldier. Then answer-

1. Which icon/symbol do you most relate to you and why:

2. Do you think surfing and beaches are missing from these images? Why/Why not?

3. Do you think war/soldiers (and brothers in arms/mateship) are missing from these images? Why/Why not?

4. Assess: Does Australia have a 'national identity'?





The 'Australia For Sun and Surf' poster was designed by Gert Sellheim in 1931. Graphically, Sellheim successfully manages to associate the sun, surf, leisure and vast open space with Australia. It is a particularly outstanding example of early Australian graphic design, using photomontage and carefully constructed typographical elements to convey a powerful message and image of an idealised Australian way of life.

1. Explain what this poster says about life in Australia:
2. Using your own life experiences, do you relate to this poster?
3. Describe another Australian 'way of life' that is not depicted in this poster.
4. Use your laptops to identify the top 10 surf spots in Australia.
5. Use your laptops to research 'Margaret River Pro' and describe the 'who' 'what' 'where' and 'when'
6. Watch 'Girls Can't Surf' trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBjcbZla2cA> and explain why this 1930s poster might be misleading.

# The Aussie 'Outback'

Crocodile Dundee (1986) was a famous world wide sensation. The film was the highest-grossing non-American film at the US box office. The film was a worldwide box office hit grossing **US\$328 million** and put Australian culture into the limelight. But what type of Australian culture and identity did it project into the world?

Watch:1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQymhy2sicE>, 2) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w\\_RNrrfh0g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w_RNrrfh0g) and, 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AoNuz1gjQo>

1. **Identify** 10 words you would use to describe Mick Dundee

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2. **Identify** 3 values you think Mick Dundee has

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3. **Describe** the national identity promoted by the film Crocodile Dundee

4. **Identify** 3 positives and 3 negatives of the way Australians are depicted in the film

Positives	Negatives

5. **Assess** how accurate Crocodile Dundee is in developing Australia's national identity (not accurate, somewhat accurate, very accurate) and why:

## My Personal Identity

<b>My Cultural influences</b> <i>-What cultures make up my identity?</i>	<b>My rituals</b> <i>-What is some of the traditions me/my family hold?</i>	<b>My values</b> <i>-What do I hold dear? What is important to me? E.g. money, family, nature, happiness.</i>	<b>My expression of culture</b> <i>- How do I express my cultural identity? Is it the way I eat, drink, sleep, wear, and believe in?</i>	<b>My Role models</b> <i>-List them; Do my role models (famous and not famous) have a similar cultural identity as me?</i>
<b>Q1. Explain how you respect other cultures/other identities?</b>				
<b>Q2. Do you think that the government should respect other cultures and identity? Should we have laws that protect cultural expression?</b>				
<b>Q3. Provide three examples of why you love your culture (think rituals/traditions, values, food, travel etc.)</b>				
1.  2.  3.				

# Multiculturalism

'Australia is a vibrant, multicultural country. We are home to the world's oldest continuous cultures, as well as Australians who identify with more than 270 ancestries. Since 1945, almost seven million people have migrated to Australia. This rich, cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

Add the following definition into your INBs:

**Multiculturalism:** the support for the presence of, several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society.

Use the following website to complete the following analysis of multiculturalism:

Website: <https://prosancons.com/human/pros-and-cons-of-multiculturalism/>



Is Multiculturalism good or bad?

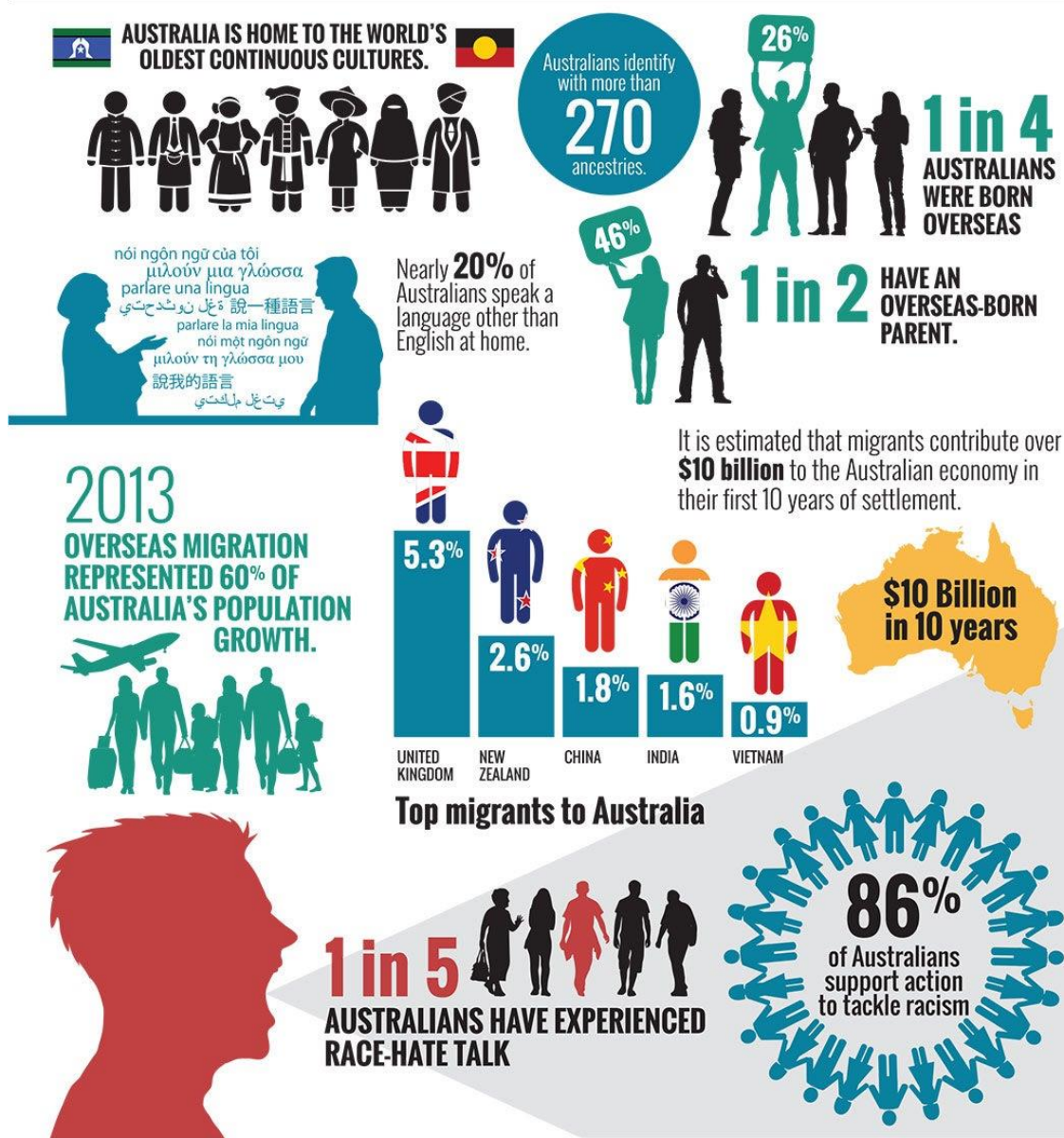
"Pros" or advantages of multiculturalism	"Cons" or disadvantages of multiculturalism

Is Multiculturalism good or bad? Rate Multiculturalism (in your opinion at this point in the booklet):

Bad 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Excellent



## Cultural Diversity



Look at the infographic to answer these questions-

1. **Identify** the oldest living continuous culture in the world:
2. **Describe** what you think 'continuous' means:
3. **Identify** two positive facts about migrants:
4. What percentage of Australians speak a language other than English?
5. Do you think Australia embraces multiculturalism? Find two facts from the infographic that **support** your response.
6. Post WWII, thousands of Italians and Greeks entered Australia. They were racially called 'wogs' and faced hate and racism. Watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_K1Qlq2nHs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_K1Qlq2nHs) and describe how 'wogs' were stereotyped in pop culture:

# Aboriginal Australia



1. **Skim read** (quickly glance over) the following passage and postulate (guess) what it might be about:

Aboriginal imagery is all around us today. We see Aboriginal motifs on Qantas airplanes, public transport, tourism advertisements, t-shirts and tea-towels. There are Aboriginal arts and cultural festivals, like the Festival of the Dreaming in Sydney, that attract a wide following of both locals and overseas visitors. During the recent Sydney Olympics, we were treated to an extravaganza of Aboriginal artistic talent broadcast to the world. **Yet, it took until 1967 before Aboriginal people were accorded basic citizenship rights and were counted in the national census of the Australian people.** Prior to this, the country's original inhabitants were not even counted as citizens. It was not until the High Court's Mabo v Qld decision in 1992, that the legal fiction of 'terra nullius' was not recognised by the common law. Australia's legal system finally acknowledged that Australia was not an empty continent. Prior to this, Aboriginal people simply did not exist within the eyes of the law as a sovereign people. The Australian Constitution still does not recognise the sovereignty (political rule) of Aboriginal Australians. In 2022, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that he will put forth a referendum (national vote) in 2023, that will ask Australians whether Aboriginal people should have a political voice (a say on Aboriginal issues) in parliament.

Non-Indigenous Australians still struggle today to come to terms with this past history of colonial dispossession and poverty that British settlers placed on Aboriginal Australians. The impact of colonial history on Aboriginal peoples' lives is experienced continually in the present. How might Aboriginal Australians feel about a national identity that does not include them meaningfully? If this is what Aboriginal Australians want (to have a political voice in parliament) should all Australians vote yes?

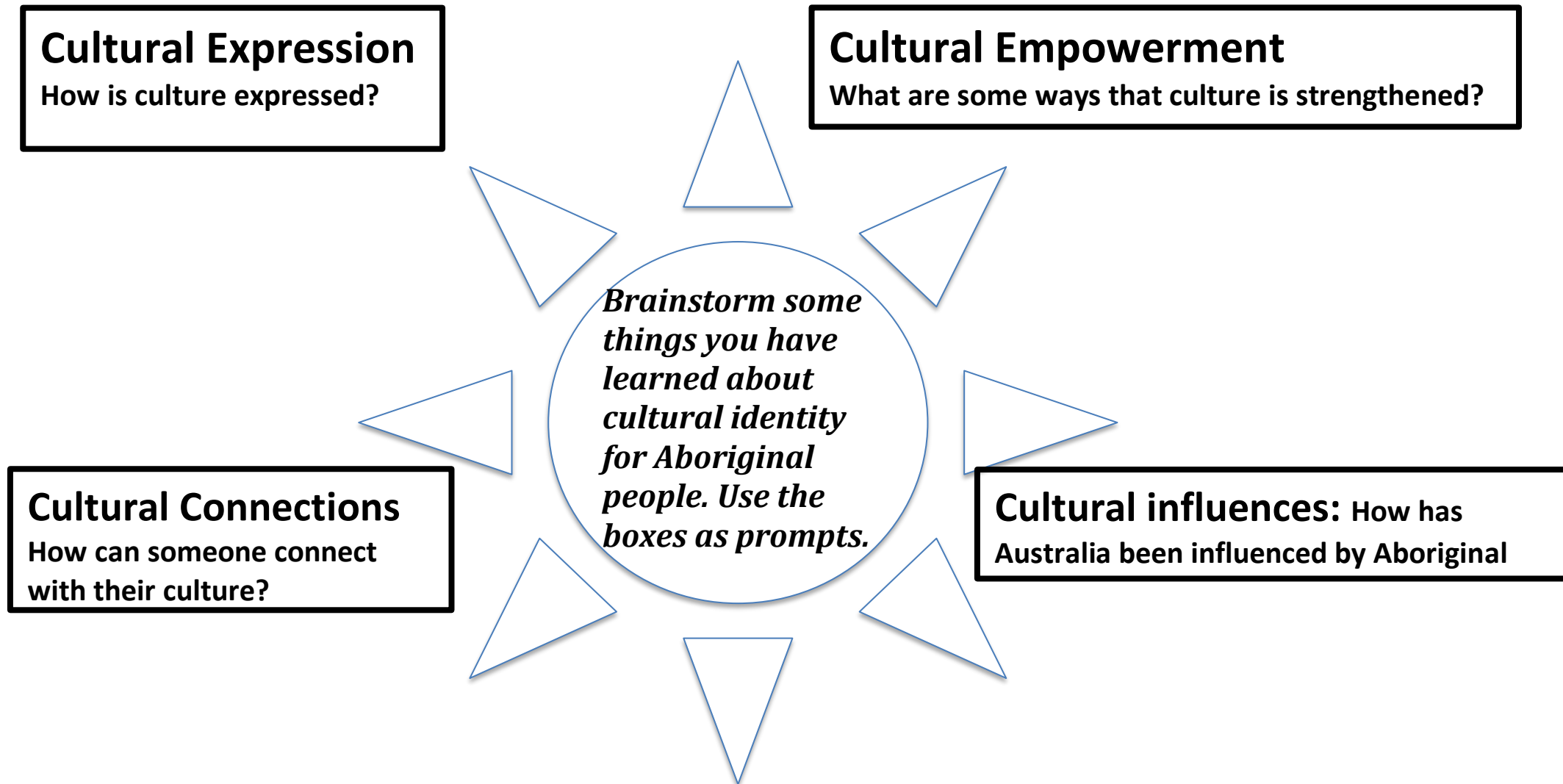
2. Now go back and read it once. Then go back and re-read, **highlighting** all the keywords (names, dates and repeating words). Looking at the keywords only. Explain what you think the main message or 'point' is of this passage?

3. Visit the website: <https://fromtheheart.com.au/what-is-a-voice-to-parliament/> and **define** 'voice to parliament' in your INBs.

4. Then **create** a timeline 1930-2023 and record the journey leading up to the 2023 referendum



Always was, always will be' – Aboriginal people have been living in Australia for over 60,000 years. The longest living culture on Earth.



**Extension:** research the Gwion Gwion Rock Art (Kimberley, WA) and put together a short PPT slide that answers, what they are, how they were formed, why they are significant, fun facts, and evaluate their significance to Australia's national identity.

# Australian Values

I can *identify and describe* **Australian values**.

I can *evaluate* whether Australian Values apply to all who live here.

The myth of the 'Australian Type' is shaped by society's contemporary dominant ideologies. Over time, political and social ideology has shaped views on morality, character, race, values and religion.

The 'Australian Type' was not just a character but embodied a 'way of life' that we think of as Australian. The 'Australian way of life' is seen as reflecting traditional virtues of egalitarianism, classlessness, 'a fair go', stoicism and again mateship. It is sometimes referred to as the 'national ethos' whereby a certain lifestyle is seen as central to the welfare of the whole community, not just one class of society. The shared ethos of leisure and the 'quarter acre block' is one articulation of the 'Australian way of life'.

So in this context, what do Australians value? Do we share common national values?

1. First, google and **identify** all the main democratic values (values that most democracies uphold; minimum of 6):

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2. Now, are there Australian-specific values that are also shared? **Research** and complete the following values table:

Value	Definition	Australian context 'example'	Evaluate: Who might 'miss out' on this value; does this value apply to all Australians?
Mateship			
A fair go			
Diversity			
Tolerance			
Classlessness			
Sport			

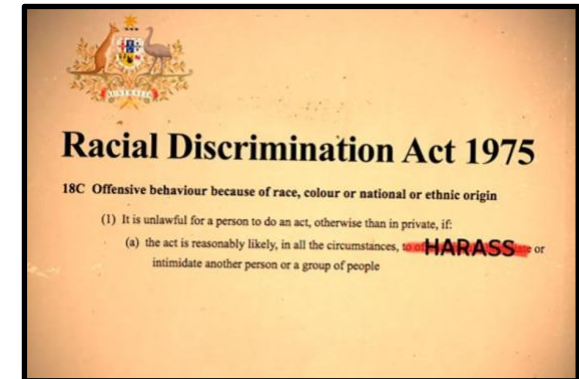
## Protecting our National Identity

In 1975, the **Racial Discrimination Act** came into force, making discrimination in different parts of public life **against the law**. The Act, which was Australia's first federal anti-discrimination law, formalised our commitment to the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In 1995, the Act was extended to make **public acts of racial hatred against the law**. Today, the Act continues to **send a strong message** about our common **commitment to racial equality and the importance of a fair go for all**.

Despite this legal protection, too many people in Australia continue to experience prejudice and unfair treatment because of how they look or where they come from.

Define 'discrimination' in your INB. Then, use the internet to explore 4 different Australian laws that protect citizens from discrimination.



Racial Discrimination Act 1975	Sex Discrimination Act 1984	Age Discrimination Act 2004	Disability Discrimination Act 1992



## EXTENSION ACTIVITY- SUPERHERO CHALLENGE.

### DEBATE THE PROPOSITION: AUSTRALIA REMAINS A RACIST AND INTOLERANT COUNTRY.

Using all the content in this booklet, debate this proposition in two TEEL paragraphs. One that **supports** the statement, and one that **challenges** the statement. Then circle the paragraph or 'position' **you** hold personally.

Remember to use evidence “For example, in 1975 the Racial Discrimination Act was passed which protected...” and then explain your evidence “This demonstrates how important..., This illustrates how much people value..., This reveals how racist..., This exemplifies the experiences of..., This points to how....” Using words like *demonstrate, illustrate, reveal, exemplify, points to* etc. lets you comment/explain/analyse your evidence. This is what truly makes a great TEEL. This is what makes you the master of the TEEL.

**Extension:** research the Hamelin Pool stromatolites (Shark Bay, WA) and put together a short PPT slide that answers, what they are, how they were formed, why they are significant, fun facts, and evaluate their significance to Australia's national identity.