

Year 6: Civics And Citizenship



Aligned with the Australian National Curriculum



By Lindsay Marsh

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Teachers' Notes

Year 6: Civics And Citizenship is part of a series which helps teachers in Australia to implement the new Civics and Citizenship national curriculum with ease. Which part of the curriculum each activity page in this book is assessing is clearly marked at the bottom of each sheet. Students are given the opportunity to demonstrate civics and citizenship skills throughout the book. The book is divided into four sections, they are: *Government And Democracy*, *Federal Laws*, *Australian Citizens*, and *Global Citizens*.

The first section of this book helps students to understand that federation made way for a new system of government based on the Westminster system - a system of government which is still in place today. The Magna Carta and its influence on Australia's parliamentary government is explored, as is the role of the monarchy and the Governor-General in Australia's democratic system of government. As students work their way through this section they will also become familiar with the Senate and the House of Representatives located inside Parliament House in Canberra and the different roles that they play.

Government And Democracy also asks students to focus on the judicial function of our legal system which involves the settling of disputes in courts. Students will be encouraged to investigate different types of courts in Australia and identify the disputes with which they deal. The final part of the first section of this book develops students' knowledge of the three levels of government - their individual and shared roles and responsibilities.

The second section in this book investigates the stages of the passage of a bill, and clarifies where ideas for new laws emerge. The third section ensures that students are aware of the process of becoming an Australian citizen, know who is eligible to become an Australian citizen and what it means to be an Australian citizen. The experiences of people who have taken up citizenship in Australia are examined.

The fourth and final section provides students with the opportunity to think about their role as a global citizen. Global issues and how we can work together to help solve them are a focus of this section.

To demonstrate their knowledge and skills of the curriculum, students will be asked to: use their research skills, work in groups, question, sequence, experiment, create, organise, interpret and voice their opinion.

The pages in this book can be used sequentially or in no particular order. To make life even easier for the teacher, the answers are provided at the back of this book.

Activity

Federation And The Westminster System 2

- ☐ After reading the information on page 7, complete the questions below.

1. In your own words, describe what federation is.



2. What laws were in place before Australia was colonised?

3. What system of government was in place immediately after colonisation?

4. What system of government was in place after federation?

5. What British system of government was this new system based on?

6. Write down three features of the British system of government.

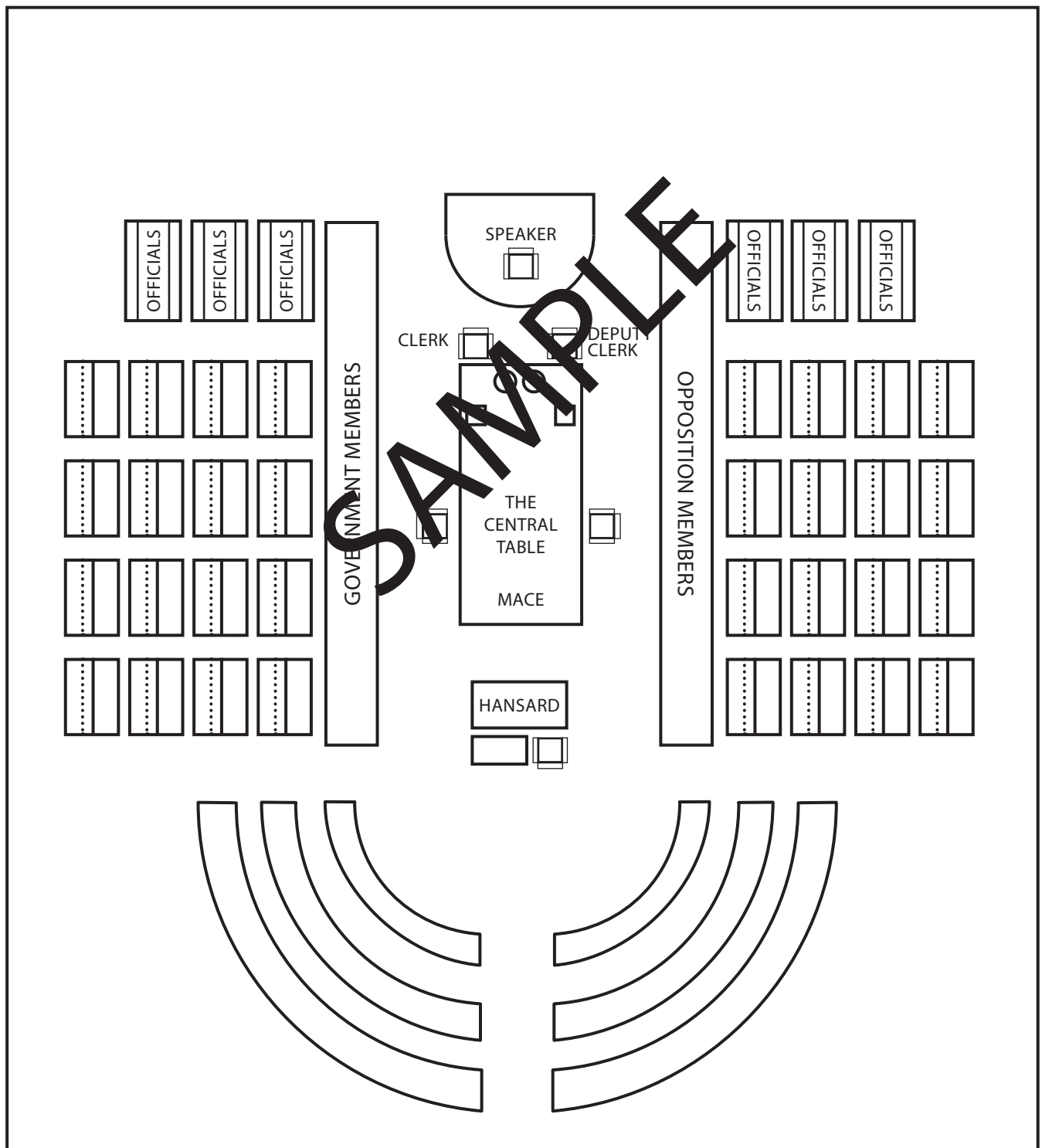
7. Write a speech using the table on page 7, which persuades an audience that federation provided a way for Australia to be better governed. In this speech you could counteract some of the arguments against federation.

Activity

The House Of Representatives

Read the information on the previous page, then complete the task.

1. Add a press gallery and two public galleries to the seating plan.
2. Indicate with the letters PM where you think the Prime Minister (if present) would sit.
3. Indicate with the letters OL where you think the Opposition Leader would sit if present.
4. Colour with a blue crayon where you think cabinet members would sit.
5. Colour red where minor party and independent members would sit.
6. On the back of this sheet, explain the Speaker's role and the significance of the Mace.



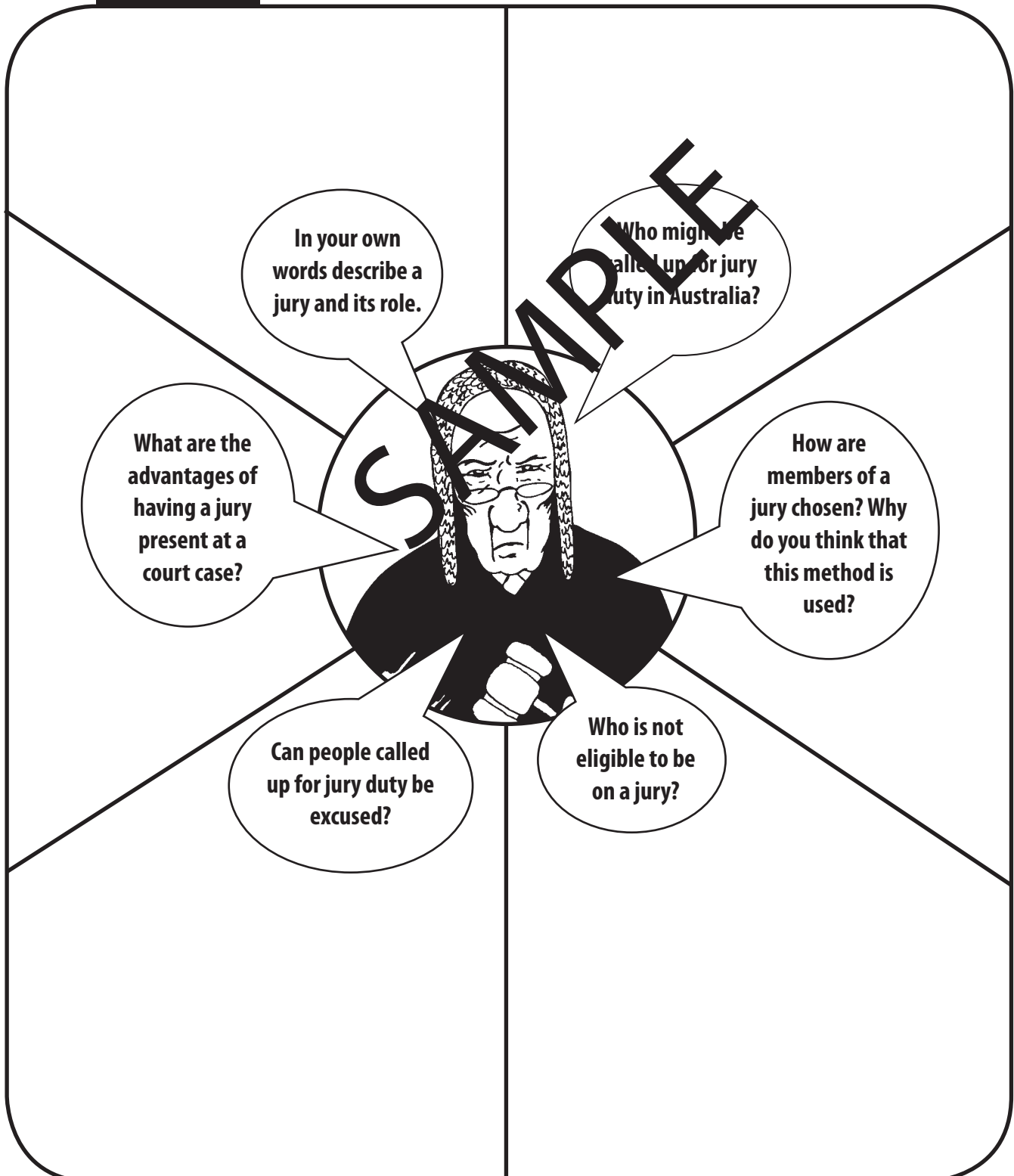
Activity

The Courts 3

- ❑ A jury is a group of people who might be present in an Australian court. One day you might be called up for jury duty. You might even know someone who has sat on a jury. Do some online research to answer the questions below.



Research



Politicians are not the only people who get to have their say on new laws. Often the idea for a new law has come from the general population – there may have been a problem in the community that can best be settled by a new law.

- ☐ Imagine this newspaper article has just been published in your state newspaper. In pairs read the article and complete the questions.

Longer School Hours - Only Solution

Following a recent community forum, it has been proposed that school hours should be lengthened, so that schools operate from 8am until 6pm.

Community leaders met to discuss the growing problem of students returning home to empty houses because their parents were still at work.

One member of the forum was quoted as saying, "Kids get into trouble when alone at home."

When their parents are at work, boredom strikes and children make unwise decisions. If schools are open for a greater period of time, students could stay at school and play sport or do other worthwhile activities." Another member said, "Kids could do their homework and teachers could help them."

The community forum has said it wants politicians to make a new law which sees schools operate for a longer period of time.

1. What is the problem identified in the article?

2. The solution to the problem that is being proposed is to keep schools open longer. Suggest at least two other solutions.

3. Are there any solutions that do not need new laws? Which ones?

4. If a new law is made to keep schools open longer what would be the advantages and disadvantages of this law?

☐ After reading the information on page 34, answer the questions below.

1. Write your own definition of a democracy. To help you to do this, you may like to define an autocracy. Get into small groups and read out your definitions. Discuss where in the world you find democracies and autocracies.

Democracy: _____

Autocracy: _____

2. What do you think is meant by the term 'parliamentary democracy'?

3. Give an example of a way in which a Parliament may show itself as undemocratic.

4. What do you think involves 'living peacefully'? Give two examples.

5. What kind of behaviour do you think constitutes 'respect for all individuals regardless of background'? Give two examples.


6. Give an example of a way in which Australia and Australians have shown compassion for those in need.

7. Freedom of speech does not mean that an Australian is entitled to say anything to anyone. There are rules associated with freedom of speech. What are these rules?

Activity

Stories Of Migration And Citizenship 2

- ☐ Record the information that you collated on the previous page about your chosen migrant.

FACT FILE	
Name of migrant:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Year of birth:
Migrated from:  <i>(Indicate on map)</i>	Insert/draw picture:
Three facts about the country this person migrated from: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> FACT 1 </div> <div style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> FACT 2 </div> <div style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> FACT 3 </div> </div>	
Why did they migrate to Australia?	

Extra

Imagine that you are a migrant living in Australia. On the back of this sheet write three things that you like about Australia.

☐ Read the information then complete the questions below.

Many of the causes of death in less-developed countries can be linked to unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation.

SOME FACTS

- 780 million people around the world do not have access to a clean water source.
- Almost a million children under five perish each year from infections caused by bacteria in unclean water.
- A third of the world's population (7 billion in 2013) does not have access to adequate toilet and sewerage systems.
- 41 million people are blinded by trachoma, a disease that results from not being able to wash with soap in clean water.



1. List three ways in which unsafe drinking water affects children in less-developed nations.

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

2. Show two of the facts listed above in the form of pie charts. Each chart will need an appropriate title.

