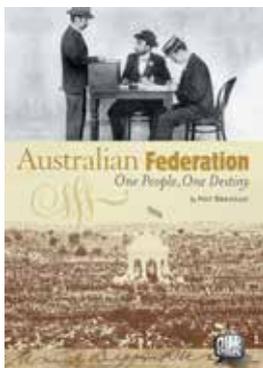


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Our Stories: Australian Federation

Author: Net Brennan  
ISBN: 9781922179944  
ARRP: \$18.95  
NZRRP: \$21.99  
April 2014

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

Before 1901 the nation of Australia did not exist. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia were six separate colonies under British rule. But among the people of the colonies, the idea of unity was emerging: "a whole continent for a nation, and a nation for a continent". Here's the story of how ordinary citizens became the first in the world to write and vote for their own Constitution, and how they came together to form the nation of Australia.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Net Brennan lives in Hobart with her husband, three children and a fluffy dog. She likes seeing snow on Mt Wellington – but not in summer! Net has 20 years' experience as a feature writer, magazine editor and sports journalist, and is also a qualified English/History teacher. *Our Stories: Child Convicts* was her first book with Walker.

## How to use these notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### These notes are for:

- Primary year 6
- Ages 8+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

### Example of:

- Non-fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

- Federation
- Australian history
- Australian colonies
- Life in Australia

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

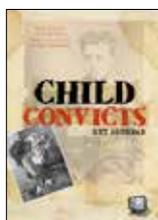
English content descriptions:

English  
Year 6  
ACELT1613  
ACELY1708  
ACELY1709  
ACELY1816  
ACELY1816  
ACELY1711  
ACELY1712  
ACELY1713  
ACELY1714  
ACELY1717

History  
Year 6  
ACHHK113  
ACHHK114  
ACHHK116  
ACHHS117  
ACHHS118  
ACHHS120  
ACHHS121  
ACHHS123  
ACHHS124  
ACHHS125

\*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.

## Other great titles in the Our Stories series



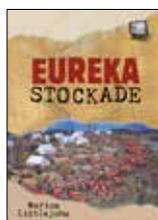
**Child Convicts**  
Net Brennan  
9781742032238  
AU\$17.95/NZ\$19.99

Classroom ideas available



**Australian Flags and Emblems**  
Karen Tayleur  
9781742031095  
AU\$17.95/NZ\$19.99

Classroom ideas available



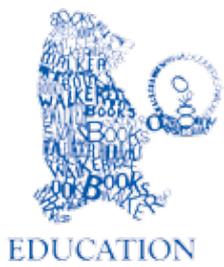
**Eureka Stockade**  
Marion Littlejohn  
9781922179111  
AU\$17.95/NZ\$19.99

Classroom ideas available



**Canberra: Federal Capital**  
Tracey Hawkins  
9781922179319  
AU\$17.95/NZ\$19.99

Classroom ideas available



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities

### English

View the cover and title. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The publisher

Discuss the following: What is the role of the author?  
What is the role of the publisher?

From the front and back cover what information can you learn about the book? What do you think this book is about? What information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

How does the layout of this book affect the readability of the text? Consider the large illustrations and photos, small blocks of text, and bold and coloured sections of text.

Find the following sections in *Australian Federation* and explain their purpose. In what kind of books might you find these sections?

- Contents
- Glossary
- Index

In what order is a glossary set out? How does this help when using it?

What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?

Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?

What is your favourite photograph or drawing in this book? Why did you pick this picture? What did you learn from it?

Find Sir Henry Parkes' Tenterfield Oration in your school library or online ([www.henryparkestenterfield.com](http://www.henryparkestenterfield.com)). Identify the persuasive techniques that Parkes employs in his speech. Which part of the speech do you find the most persuasive?

Write a diary entry from the perspective of one of the following people:

- A person in the crowd during the Tenterfield oration (see page 10)
- Edmund Barton on 3 June 1898 (see page 32)
- A young boy or girl on 1 January 1901 watching the Great Inaugural Procession in Sydney (see page 39)

Write a newspaper report on one of the key events discussed in the book. Use informative, unbiased language in your report.

### History

Create a timeline of the key events surrounding Australian Federation. Start with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and then include key dates in the lead up to federation in 1901. Include extra information and pictures found in your school library or online. Use an online interactive timeline creator such as Time Toast ([www.timetoast.com](http://www.timetoast.com)) or Tiki-Toki ([www.tiki-toki.com](http://www.tiki-toki.com)).

As a class, have a discussion on the reliability of information found online. Are all websites reliable? Discuss how addresses ending in .gov or .edu are generally reliable, but other addresses ending in .com need to be used with caution. Why can some websites feature unreliable information?

Have a class discussion on how you would go about seeking further information on Australian federation. Discuss the places information can be found and the reliability of the information based on the author. Also discuss the difference between primary and secondary sources.

"The 1897 Federation Convention in Adelaide was the first time in the world that the people of a country had elected delegates to write their constitution." (Page 24)  
What is the significance of this occurrence?

Imagine you are politicians in the lead up to the 1898 referendum and hold a debate on federation. One side should argue for federation and the other against. Use evidence from the text in your arguments and use persuasive techniques to win the judges' support.

Hold a referendum about an issue that effects your school. Split the class into two groups, one side for the issue and the other against. Each group should gain support for their side using posters, speeches and any other appropriate methods. Create yes or no voting cards and distribute to the voters to make their decision.

What influence did women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have on federation? Name some key figures and the part they played in the lead up to federation.