

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS: QUESTIONS FROM THE INFORMATION TOOLKIT

**The following contains extracts of the
research questions and suggested
activities from each section of the toolkit.**

The 1967 Referendum: A Western Australian Perspective

Research Questions:

What was the nexus question? Why do you think it did not succeed?

Why do you think Western Australia recorded such a high 'No' vote compared to the other states?

Do you think conditions for Aboriginal people have improved as a result of the 1967 Referendum? Why or why not?

What do you think is the next step for Aboriginal Rights in Australia?

What does the 'Yes' vote on the 1967 Referendum ballot paper mean to you?

Why is there no reliable census data from before 1967?

Activity:

A large part of achieving a 'Yes' vote on the Referendum was the campaigning that gained community support. Make a poster, or come up with a campaign slogan to rally the community to vote 'Yes' on the 1967 Referendum, in favour of Aboriginal rights

Compare and Contrast: Fremantle and Kalgoorlie

Research Questions:

Is a referendum on the same issues were to be held today, would you expect the result from your town to be any different? Why? Why not?

What does Australia Day mean to you? Do you support Fremantle's decision? Why or why not?

If you were elected as the WA Premier, what possible solutions could you offer towards providing better services for Aboriginal people in Kalgoorlie?

Activity:

Stage a debate in your classroom arguing 'for' or 'against' moving the celebration date of Australia Day.

Aboriginal Heroes

Research Questions:

What are some commonalities between all of the heroes mentioned in this section?

Do you think the Aboriginal heroes from Western Australia are well known to the broader public? Why or why not?

What do you think the Referendum result meant (or would have meant) to each of the Aboriginal heroes featured?

Activities:

Using the material provided, and your own research, write a biography for a Western Australian Aboriginal hero, including creating a timeline of events.

Imagine you are one of these heroes. Create a 'dear diary' entry, as if they were writing in their diary after the result of the Referendum was announced. Think about the emotive language that would have been used at that time and the freedom and justice this event would have symbolised.

Human Rights, Bringing Them Home Report, and Closing the Gap

Research Questions:

What are some examples of human rights?

What is the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights?

Do you think intergovernmental organisations such as the UN are important? Why/Why not?

Why do you think Australia voted against the UN General Assembly adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Why is acknowledgement of the Stolen Generation still important today?

Do you think the Closing the Gap campaign has succeeded? Why/Why not? What would you do if you were a Minister for Health or Education in Australia?

Why do you think the 1979 Makarrata agreement was not adopted by Cabinet in 1981?

Activities:

Listen to Paul Kelly's "From Little Things, Big Things Grow." This song was written about Vincent Lingiari and the Wave Hill Walk Off. How do you think Kelly's message could be applied to the issues presented by the Closing the Gap campaign?

Activity: Many of Western Australia's Aboriginal heroes fought for equal rights. Explore the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and create a list of those rights that the Australian government should consider implementing .

Further resources for teachers on Human Rights, Civics and Citizenship, can be found at the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Human rights in the classroom* website at:

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/human-rights-school-classroom>

Mabo, Land Rights and Native Title

Research Questions:

What is terra nullius?

What two perspectives of the Australian legal system did the Mabo case challenge?

Who was Vincent Lingiari and why was he significant to Aboriginal Australia?

What was the significance of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy? How is this relevant today?

Activity:

The National Native Title Tribunal website provides detailed and current spatial data on a national, state and territory and regional level. Go to their website and explore the current Native Title claims for your area:

<http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/Maps.aspx>

Primary Source Documents

Research Questions:

Why is the keeping of historical records like these important?

How many times is a bill traditionally read in Parliament?

How many Electoral Divisions were in WA at the time of the Referendum? Is this different now? If so, how?

Activities:

The document '*Proceedings in Parliament and submissions of case*' contains Referendum propaganda from the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. They were encouraging people to write campaign slogans to the tune of Waltzing Matilda. Thinking about the 1967 Referendum, try and come up with a new verse

POSSIBLE PROJECTS:

Recreate a protest in favour of a 'Yes' vote on the 1967 Referendum, complete with posters and chants.

Using independent research, and the information provided in this toolkit create a documentary about the Referendum or Mabo Decision.

Create a mural of what the Referendum meant historically or what it means today. Include historic imagery (posters, photographs, slogans etc.) featured in this toolkit.

Create a webpage outlining the context and history of the 1967 Referendum. Provide a brief biography of the prominent WA figures involved and provide interesting facts about the Referendum throughout.

Compose a song to explain the significance of the Referendum to the wider community. Design a film clip to accompany your song.

In groups, present an oral report to the rest of the class, or the wider school community, summarising the sections of this toolkit. Be creative in your presentation, using a range of media forms.

TOPICS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Western Australia

Battle of Pinjarra [The Pinjarra Massacre]

Calyute

Carrolup Children Artists

Chief Protector for Aborigines

Forest River Massacre

Jandamarra

June Oscar AO

Legislation in regards to Aboriginal people:
<https://www.noongarculture.org.au/list-of-wa-legislation/>

Politician Carol Martin

The 1946-49 Pilbara Strike

The 1945 Port Hedland cattle station strike

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

The Western Australian Aborigines Act 1905

The Wagyl

Wadjemup [Rottnest Island] Prison

Western Australian Aboriginal Soldiers:
They Served With Honour, 2015, published
by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Yagan and his Legacy

National

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy [1972]

The Aboriginal Flag

Albert Namatjira

The Assimilation Policy

Bennelong and Colebee

The Bringing Them Home report and
National Sorry Day

Cathy Freeman

Charlie Perkins

Constitutional Recognition

Ernie Dingo

Evonne Goolagong [Cawley]

Maralinga Atomic Tests

Neville Bonner

Oodgeroo Noonuccal [Kath Walker]

Pat O'Shane

The Redfern and Palm Island Riots

The Right to Vote [1962]

Royal Commission into Aboriginal
Deaths in Custody

Vincent Lingiari, Whitlam and the
Gurindji people

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on the topics covered in this toolkit, explore the following sources:

[Australian Institute of Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)

[Creative Spirits](#)

[National Archives of Australia](#)

[National Archives Virtual Reading Room](#)

[State Library of Western Australia](#)

[State Records Office of Western Australia](#)

[The National Native Title Tribunal](#)

[Western Australian Museum](#)

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Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Fremantle City Library	SBS
Aborigines Advancement League	Freshwater Bay Museum	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
Australian Human Rights Commission	Koorie Victoria and State Library Collections	State Library of Western Australia
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	Museum of Australian Democracy	State Library of Victoria
Battye Library	National Archives of Australia	Wangka Maya Pilbara Corporation
City of Fremantle	National Library of Australia	West Australian Newspapers Limited
City of Perth History Centre	National Museum of Australia	Western Australian Museum
	Nine News Australia	



Government of Western Australia
Department of Aboriginal Affairs



WESTERN
AUSTRALIAN
MUSEUM



State Library
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA