

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2006

105th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

Website resources

www.australianflag.org.au

(Australian National Flag Association, home site of the Australian flag. For a wealth of information, including links to important facts, history and teaching resources)

www.australianflag.org.au/protocol.php ('Flying the Flag' protocols)

SPECIAL DAYS FOR FLYING THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

There are Special Days of National Commemoration when the Australian National flag is especially flown and honoured. These include Federation Day, Australia Day, Commonwealth of Nations Day, Anzac Day, The Queen's Birthday, Australian National Flag Day and Remembrance Day.

Australian National Flag Book

- Provide students with a picture or sticker of the Australian National Flag.
- Have the students create their own book about the history and significance of the Australian National Flag
- Some ideas for the book: paint the flag; write poetry and stories; design a book cover; collect information about special occasions on which the flag has been flown e.g. Australia Day, Anzac Day, the Olympic Games.

Flags and flagpoles

- Have a medium-sized Australian flag displayed in the classroom.
- Every school should have a flagpole and proudly fly the Australian National Flag. If your School needs another Australian flag, devise a classroom action plan to present to your school's Principal/P&C/P&F outlining the reasons for ensuring that your school proudly flies the Australian National Flag.
- Your Federal Member of Parliament can help with information about flagpoles.

Indigenous peoples' flags

- Have students research the history and meaning of the Australian Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander flag.
- Students should investigate the symbols and the meanings of the parts of these flags.
- Ask students to paint and display the flags and report on the information found.

Other National symbols

- Students could work in groups to research the various National and State symbols. Start them off by describing the other National symbols: Australia's Coat of Arms, the National fauna emblems (the kangaroo and emu), the National floral emblem (golden wattle) and the National gemstone (opal).
- For each State, students should specify (where possible) the Coats of Arms, the floral and fauna emblems and the gemstone emblem.
- Have the students make a poster display of these symbols and emblems.

Design a flag

- After a discussion about symbols and colours, ask the students to work in pairs to design their own Australian flag. Make sure they are able to explain the meanings of the symbols and colours they choose.
- As an extra activity, ask the students to design and submit ideas for a class flag. Again encourage the students to use symbols and colours representative of themselves and their class and school.

HOMEWORK RESEARCH ACTIVITY

- Have students work with their parents to research the important protocols that govern the use of the Australian National Flag.
- Students could interview their parents about the Australian National Flag and what it means to them.
- If the student's parents or grandparents were born in another country, have students find out about the flags of the country that they emigrated from and, if possible, report back to the class with the aid of a picture or drawing of that flag.