

MAPPING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL Activity

Setting the scene

The National Capital's central national area contains symbols and structures of the nation's culture, history and aspirations.

The geometric centre of Walter Burley Griffin's original design, it provides the focus for the Seat of Government, cultural institutions and the recreation areas of the capital. It is often the location for events, memorials, protests, parades and the workings of democracy, all of which add meaning to the National Capital and are a source of pride for Australians.

Use the **MAPPING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL** map to complete the following activity.

What to do

Locate cultural institutions and commemorative areas on the National Capital map using geographical tools.

You will need

- The National Capital map
- pencil
- ruler
- protractor

Follow the coordinates to locate the exact position of each site.

1. Parliament House to Old Parliament House	36°	800m
2. Old Parliament House to Questacon	19°	450m
3. Questacon to the National Library	322°	280m
4. The National Library to Commonwealth Place	98°	440m
5. Commonwealth Place to the High Court	150°	220m
6. The High Court to the National Gallery	150°	160m
7. The National Gallery to the National Carillon	70°	540m
8. The National Carillon to the National Capital Exhibition	312°	1360m

Locate the Captain Cook Memorial Jet.

a. Parliament House to the Captain Cook Memorial Jet	15°
b. The National Carillon to the Captain Cook Memorial Jet	304°
c. City Hill to the Captain Cook Memorial Jet	176°

Be creative

Once you have found the location of a site or structure, create an icon that represents its role and purpose.

Locate and label the three distinct areas of Lake Burley Griffin: Central Basin, West Basin and East Basin.

MAPPING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL



PARLIAMENTARY ZONE SITE STUDY

Activity

Setting the scene

The Parliamentary Zone is the city's central national area and contains symbols and structures of the nation's culture, history and aspirations.

The geometric centre of Walter Burley Griffin's original design, the Parliamentary Zone provides the focus for the Seat of Government, cultural institutions and the recreation areas of the capital. It is often the location for events, memorials, protests, parades and the workings of democracy, all of which add meaning to the National Capital and are a source of pride for Australians.

What to do

- Choose one of the following sites located in the national domain.
- Write a 600-word report detailing the history, location and function of the site you have chosen to study.

Key points within your report should cover:

- What was present in the area prior to the construction of the site you have chosen to study?
- Describe the physical characteristics of the site, and any major changes to the environment.
- Detail the history of the site.
- Mention any key people involved in the development of the site.
- What is the function and role of the site you are studying?
- Why do you think this structure or public space is located within the Parliamentary Zone?
- Why do you think this structure or public space is located in the national capital?

Sites found in the Parliamentary Zone

- Parliament House
- Old Parliament House
- Old Parliament House Gardens
- The National Library of Australia
- The National Portrait Gallery
- Reconciliation Place
- Questacon - The National Science & Technology Centre
- The High Court of Australia
- The National Gallery of Australia
- Commonwealth Place
- Electoral Education Centre
- International Flag Display

Be creative

Create a collage of images and textures representing the history, location and function of the site you have chosen to study.

A NATIONAL ATTRACTION

Activity

Setting the scene

Canberra is a planned city and a creation of a new nation. It is also the home of the nation's most important cultural buildings, locations, celebrations and ceremonies – a place where shared values are celebrated and particular objects that Australians treasure are stored. They remind us of our shared history and who we are today. Visitors to the National Capital can experience the past and present homes of the Federal Parliament, along with the Australian War Memorial, the National Capital Exhibition and Questacon, just to name a few.

What to do

- Become familiar with important cultural buildings and national attractions in the National Capital.
- Create your own national attraction or cultural building, one that is not yet represented in the National Capital.
- Write an 800-word report.

Key points within your report should engage with the following:

- Justify why this national attraction or cultural building should be located in the National Capital.
- What role or purpose would this national attraction or cultural building play in promoting Australian history, ideals and symbolism?
- What audience would the national attraction or cultural building cater to?
- What objects or items would this building contain and display?
- How would this building represent Australia on an international scale?
- Where would it be located in the National Capital?
- What environmental impact would this building have on the site nominated for its location?
- Give a name to your national attraction or cultural building and a vision statement. For example: the National Capital Authority's vision statement is 'to build the National Capital in the hearts of all Australians'.
- Design a logo.

Be creative

Create your own building design to be located in the National Capital.

Draw several architecturally based designs from several different angles.

Highlight major entrances, internal areas and their function.

Describe your source of inspiration for the design.

COMMEMORATION IN THE CAPITAL

Activity

Setting the scene

All cultures create objects and emblems whose purpose is to commemorate the celebration of historical moments, events, people or ideas that have meaning and value for the community at large. Commemorative works such as memorials are a physical expression of unity and beliefs within a community. As permanent objects, their strength resides in the fact that they will remain a lasting physical feature to be acknowledged by future generations. Such works, when located within a country's capital city, have a special 'national significance'. Canberra's memorials inform current and future generations of the values held by the Australian community at particular points in time.

Use the COMMEMORATION IN THE CAPITAL map to complete the following activity.

What to do

- Become familiar with *Peace Park*, near the National Library of Australia.
- Become familiar with Peace Parks located around the world.
- Create a new design for Canberra's Peace Park with commemorative ideas or events sympathetic to the surrounding landscape and scenic views.

Use these criteria for your Peace Park design:

- Your design must fit within the given space indicated on the COMMEMORATION IN THE CAPITAL map.
- Alteration to the established environment should be minimal.
- Include symbols and words of peace.
- Incorporate a recreational area and quiet spaces for reflection.
- Cater for access by people with disabilities and the elderly.
- Consider how your design can relate to significant events in Australian history as symbols that all Australians can relate to.

Be creative

Once you have completed your design for Peace Park, create a multimedia presentation which showcases your achievement.

COMMEMORATION IN THE CAPITAL

