

Unit 2 – Creation of a Nation

Born Identity

Setting the scene

In the very early years, Australia was made up of six colonies under the control of the British Empire. On 9 July 1900, Queen Victoria signed a document called the Royal Commission of Assent (assent means agreement). This document officially recorded the Queen's agreement to Australian self-government and made way for the Australian Constitution and the establishment of the Commonwealth. The Royal Commission of Assent is one of Australia's most important documents, as it helped to create Australian democracy – a type of birth certificate for Australia.

Create your own birth certificate, with a set of rules, for your own school.

If everyone is to contribute fairly to this activity then a set of rules must be followed.

Can you add more to these rules?

- 1. Allow everyone to speak without interruption.**
- 2. Recognise everyone's contribution as a good idea.**
- 3. Listen when someone is speaking.**

4. _____

5. _____

Work together as a group and decide on ten rules that promote learning, safety and happiness in your school.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?



6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Create a colourful birth certificate for your school and include your list of ten rules.

Want to know more?

The Royal Commission of Assent was one of the last documents Queen Victoria signed before her death on 22 January 1901.

Unit 2 – Creation of a Nation

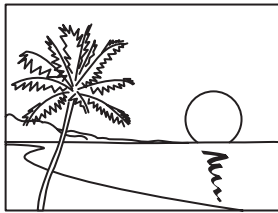
What's in a Name?

Setting the scene

The Commonwealth Government announced in 1912 that it would consider a name for the newly created National Capital. Over 700 names were entered in the national competition which covered a wide range of subject matter including: Australian animals, birds, flowers, politicians and famous people, plus the odd joke or two. All of the names submitted clearly demonstrated that Australia had already developed a lively identity of its own.

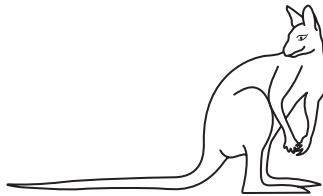
On 12 March 1913, at a grand ceremony, the Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman announced the new city would be called 'Canberra'.

THE LUCKY COUNTRY



SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

LAMINGTONS



G'DAY



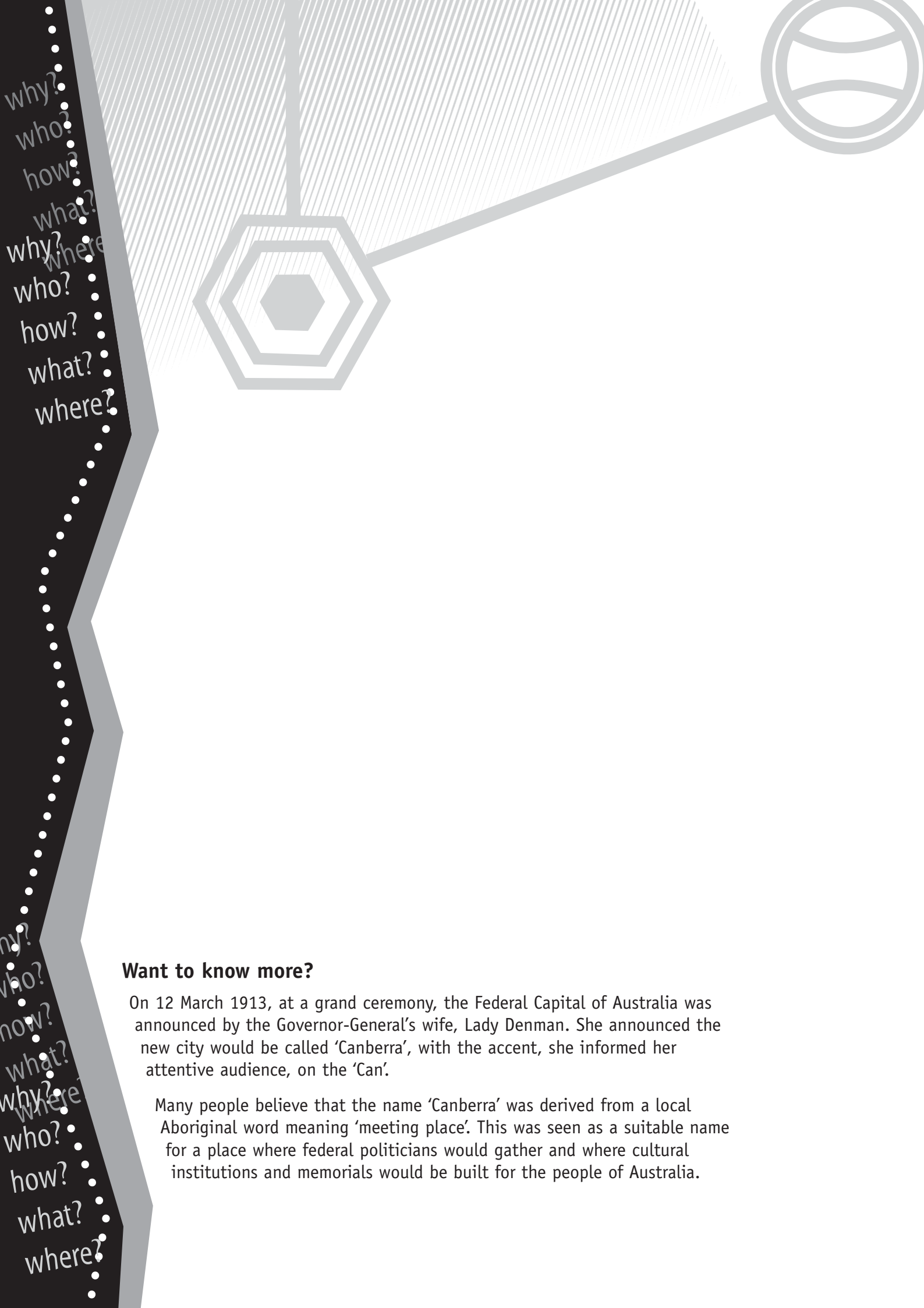
Look at the images and words to create two names for Australia's newly created National Capital.

1.

Explain why you chose this word.

2.

Explain why you chose this word.



why?
who?
how?
what?
why?
where?
who?
how?
what?
where?

why?
who?
how?
what?
why?
where?
who?
how?
what?
where?

Want to know more?

On 12 March 1913, at a grand ceremony, the Federal Capital of Australia was announced by the Governor-General's wife, Lady Denman. She announced the new city would be called 'Canberra', with the accent, she informed her attentive audience, on the 'Can'.

Many people believe that the name 'Canberra' was derived from a local Aboriginal word meaning 'meeting place'. This was seen as a suitable name for a place where federal politicians would gather and where cultural institutions and memorials would be built for the people of Australia.

Unit 2 – Creation of a Nation

Almighty Arch — Triumphant Arches Celebrating Federation

Setting the scene

On 1 January 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed in a celebration across the nation. Grand processions heralded the event and the streets were decorated with large arches that reflected Australian life and Australian themes.

Work through this activity to create a triumphal arch that represents an Australian theme close to your heart.

In 1901 Australia was a nation of proud people celebrating Federation. List important aspects of Australian life in 1901. Hint: think of industries, tradespeople, sport and recreation.

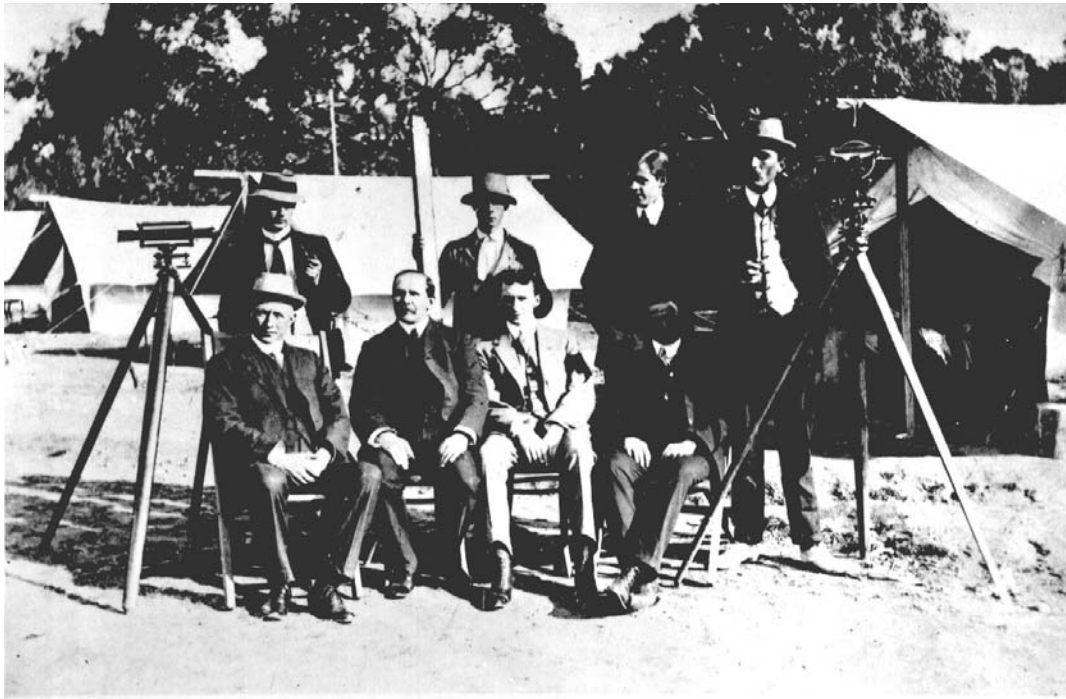
Are you a proud Australian?

Write down what you think symbolises Australia today. Hint: think of animals, sport, clothing, Australian inventions and places you like to visit.



Triumphal arch made of wool, Bridge St, Sydney, 1901

By permission of the National Library of Australia



Charles Scrivener and team surveying the site for the National Capital. Note the two theodolites

Unit 2 – Creation of the Nation

Location, Location

Setting the scene

Section 125 of the Australian Constitution provided for a National Capital. In 1902, members of the Federal Parliament began inspections of possible sites. Factors influencing the choice of site included: good permanent water, pleasant outlook, an existing lake or possibility of one, flat land (because it would be cheaper to build on) and a large area for military manoeuvres. The site also had to be inland, to reduce the risk of attack on the National Capital from foreign invaders approaching from the sea. In total, 35 sites in New South Wales were considered, and in 1908 the Federal Parliament passed The Seat of Government Act that declared the capital of Australia would be situated in the Yass-Canberra district, where Canberra is today.

Use your *Location, Location* map and find the perfect site for Australia's National Capital.

You must follow this set of rules to locate the ideal position

- at least 100 miles from the ocean
- at least 100 miles from any major city
- good permanent water supply
 - pleasant outlooks from nearby hills
 - existing lake, or possibility of creating one by damming a creek
- flat land
- a large area for military manoeuvres
- nearby forests for harvesting wood
- limestone deposits for construction
- nearby crude oil deposits
- a blustery area for wind farms
- cool climate

Draw on your map

- a city
- a wind farm
- an area for the military
- a saw mill to harvest the forest
- a cement works to collect limestone

why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?



List five reasons why you chose a particular area.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Want to know more?

During the search for a suitable site for Australia's National Capital, both Sydney and Melbourne had outbreaks of the plague. To avoid this in the National Capital it was necessary to find a location that had a cold climate and promoted good health. The Canberra area was considered just right for a climate where people could live long and healthy lives.

Location, Location activity sheet

