

Unit 4 – On Behalf of the Nation

National Capitals Worldwide

Setting the scene

Canberra is a planned city. The Australian people have sought to build a National Capital of which they are proud: a beautiful city; a capital which represents our people; and a city which stands proudly in the ranks of National Capitals throughout the world.

National Capitals are a symbol of unity for all citizens; a seat of government; and a place where important public buildings and institutions symbolise aspects of a country's history and culture.

Research project

Every country has a National Capital.

Below is a list of some countries and their National Capitals:

Australia	Canberra
United States of America	Washington, DC
Canada	Ottawa
France	Paris
Brazil	Brasilia
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Germany	Berlin
New Zealand	Wellington
India	New Delhi
United Kingdom	London
People's Republic of China	Beijing
Republic of Ireland	Dublin
Russian Federation	Moscow

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Choose a country from the list or write down one of your own suggestions.

Find the name of its National Capital.

Research the history of this National Capital by answering the following questions.

- When was the National Capital created?
- Why was the National Capital created?
- Who were the people who played a vital role in creating their National Capital?
- Find photos or draw pictures of well-known buildings in the National Capital.
- Find a recipe that you think represents the National Capital's country.
- List five words that you think represent the National Capital's country.

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Yes Prime Minister

Setting the scene

The role of Australia's Prime Minister is one of great prestige and power. Over the years, Prime Ministers have included some of the most interesting and at times controversial figures in Australian history. You love them or hate them, but either way, Australia cannot function without one.

So far, Robert Menzies has been the longest serving Prime Minister with more than sixteen years in office, over two separate terms. Frank Ford is famous for being the shortest serving Prime Minister and was only in the job for eight days.

What to do

- investigate
- research
- decorate

Investigate an Australian Prime Minister and present your research in the form of a large and colourful poster.

The name of the Prime Minister I will research is

During your investigation you should answer the following points:

- Which party did the Prime Minister represent?
- How long was the Prime Minister in office and why did his term end?
- What important achievements did this Prime Minister accomplish?
- Provide personal background information on the Prime Minister.
- Were there any important historical events that occurred during the Prime Minister's term in office?
- Do you think the Prime Minister was good or not so good at his job?

Draw a portrait of the Prime Minister to include in your research poster.

Want to know more?

Many of Canberra's suburbs have been named after Australian Prime Ministers, including Barton, Deakin, Hughes and Scullin.

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Greetings from Canberra

Setting the scene

Canberra is Australia's only major inland city. It is a place for national protest, celebration and commemoration. As the political pulse of the nation, Canberra hosts regular visits from international world leaders and heads of state. It is certainly the political centre of Australia, but Canberra is also a leading city of ideas and innovation, excellence in the arts, education and sport. It is home to national events and celebrations, national memories and national treasures. This city truly can be called 'the heart of the nation'.

Answer these questions.

Does Australia need a National Capital? Explain your answer.

How has Canberra shaped Australia's history?

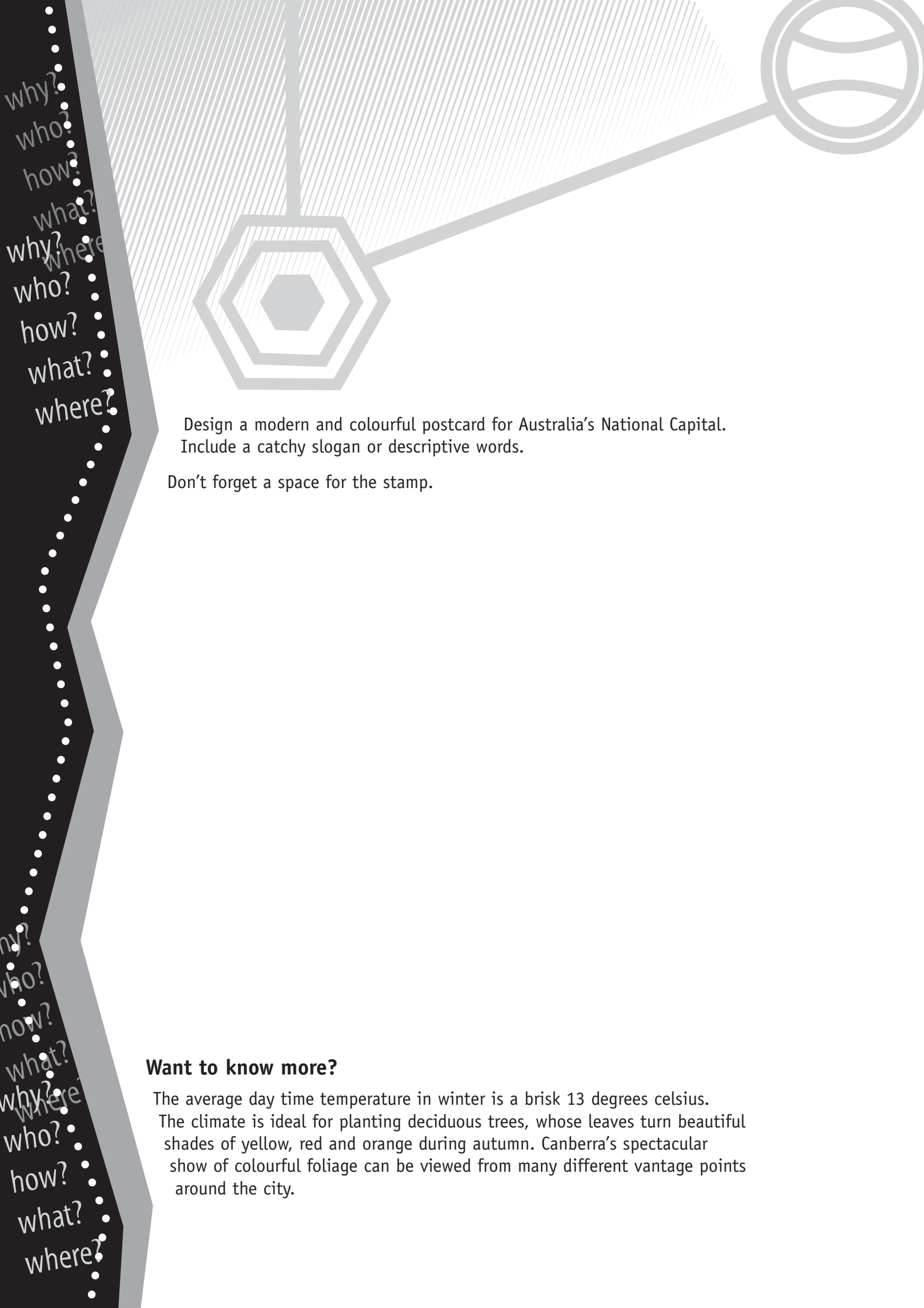
Should people visit the National Capital? Explain your answer.

What role does Australia's National Capital play in the present day?

Which words best describe Canberra?

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Design a modern and colourful postcard for Australia's National Capital. Include a catchy slogan or descriptive words.

Don't forget a space for the stamp.

Want to know more?

The average day time temperature in winter is a brisk 13 degrees celsius. The climate is ideal for planting deciduous trees, whose leaves turn beautiful shades of yellow, red and orange during autumn. Canberra's spectacular show of colourful foliage can be viewed from many different vantage points around the city.

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Discover your National Capital

Setting the scene

Canberra's modern history is very short. The National Capital has evolved over an eighty-year period. You could consider it as one person's lifetime. Australia is a young nation whose people are rich in culture and, together, create a unique and distinct society.

Canberra, as the National Capital of Australia, is the symbolic home for all Australians. It has an identity of which we should all be proud.

Write down five words that describe Canberra and explain why you chose each word.

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Want to know more?

The Australian Capital Territory's floral emblem is the Royal Bluebell and the Gang-Gang Cockatoo is its bird emblem.

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