

NATIONAL CAPITALS WORLDWIDE

Activity

Setting the scene

National capitals are a symbol of unity for all citizens. The Seat of Government is often located there, along with important public buildings and institutions that symbolise aspects of a country's history, culture and future. The National Capital promotes images that reflect national identity and conveys particular qualities of the country in question.

Canberra is Australia's National Capital. It is a planned city and the conscious creation of an emerging nation. It is a city that stands proudly in the ranks of National Capitals throughout the world.

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

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

What to do

- Choose a country and its national capital from the list or write down one of your own suggestions.
- Compare Australia's National Capital with the national capital you have chosen.
- Record your comparisons in a 1000 word report.

Key points within your report should answer the following:

- When was the national capital created? Is it older or younger than Canberra?
- Why was the national capital created?
- Does this national capital contain important public buildings and institutions? Are there similarities when comparing Canberra's important public buildings and institutions? *Hint – consider the architecture, the role and the purpose of each building.*
- Does this national capital celebrate ceremonial occasions similar to Australia Day and Anzac Day? What is the name of the ceremony? How is it celebrated and is it celebrated in a similar way in Australia?
- Find a map of the national capital's central district and the location of government buildings. Are there any similarities between this national capital and Canberra's Parliamentary Triangle?
- List five words that you think represent Canberra as Australia's National Capital.
- List five words that you think represent the national capital you have chosen to study.

Be creative

Find a recipe that you think represents the national capital that you have been studying.

Follow the recipe and create a culinary masterpiece. You may add decorations to reinforce images of symbolism and citizenship.

Answer the following:

- Sample your masterpiece. Did you like the taste?
- Were the ingredients easy to find in Australia?
- Why did you choose this recipe?

NATIONAL PERCEPTIONS

Activity

Setting the scene

Canberra's history is relatively 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 who, 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 be proud – but are we?

What to do

- Report on how Canberra is commonly portrayed by the media.
- Design a tourism promotion for Australia's National Capital.

Collect newspaper clippings from local and national newspapers.

Use the internet to access online newspapers.

Report on how Canberra and the National Capital are commonly portrayed by the media.

Key points within your report should answer the following questions:

- When are the words 'Canberra' or 'National Capital' generally used?
- Who is using the words (e.g. journalists or politicians)?
- Are the words used positively or negatively to portray the National Capital?
- Is the depiction a fair representation of the National Capital and the role it plays for all Australians?
- If the depiction is seen as unfair, how would you go about changing it?

Be creative

Design a global tourism promotion for Australia's National Capital.

Take an innovative approach and use a computer to create an interactive multimedia design.

Remember, your audience has a limited understanding of Australia's National Capital and, more than likely, has not visited Canberra in the last ten years.

Your goal is to:

- generate interest in Canberra
- promote visitation to the National Capital, particularly from high school students
- educate people who have never visited Canberra
- educate people on the role of Australia's National Capital.

A CAPITAL SURVEY

Activity

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 seen by many as the political centre of Australia, but these days Canberra is much more. It is a National Capital full of ideas and innovation. It is home to national events and celebrations, national treasures and national icons – a National Capital of which we should all be proud.

What to do

- Create a survey.
- Promote the National Capital.

Create a survey to record a person's perceptions of the National Capital.

Your survey can:

- be one double-sided A4 page.
- use a variety of questioning techniques, including YES or NO answers, grades on a scale and single-word responses.

For example, include these questions in your survey:

- Have you visited Canberra in the last ten years? (YES or NO answer)
- If you have visited Canberra, would you rate your experience as below average, average, above average or excellent? (grades on a scale)
- What word would you use to describe Canberra? (single-word response)

Add extra questions that you think will be useful as part of the survey.

Try to survey as many people as possible.

Remember your survey must be unbiased. You cannot help the people you survey with their answers.

Collate your results and present them in an easy-to-read table or graph.

Be creative

List ten ways you would positively promote the National Capital to high school students.

Which aspects of Canberra would you use in your promotion?

Be inventive and use your imagination.

There are no limitations.

DEBATE ON CAPITAL HILL

Activity

Setting the scene

Walter Burley Griffin's original design for the National Capital called for a grand construction on the peak of Capital Hill. 'The Capitol' was to be a striking architectural creation that could be viewed from many parts of the city. It would commemorate the achievements of Australians in literature, science, art, politics and much more. Parliament House was to be located below the Capitol building on Camp Hill, a spur of Capital Hill, and a natural platform for an important building to both unify and dominate the government buildings located below within the Parliamentary Triangle. The elevated location of the Capitol building, compared to Parliament House, was to symbolise the fact that in a democracy, the people should always stand above their elected representatives.

This deliberate design placement by Griffin was radical for its time. After Griffin's resignation as Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction in 1920, debate about a permanent Parliament House and its location was virtually unheard of from the time of the opening of the Provisional (Old) Parliament House in 1927 through to 1957, when the Joint House Department began discussing likely sites for the new Parliament House. It was eventually decided that Parliament House should be located on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. However, after intense discussion and debate, both Houses passed the 1974 Parliament Act that confirmed the location for Parliament House to be on Capital Hill (Griffin's proposed location for the Capitol).

What to do

- Research.
- Analyse.
- Debate.

Topic – Should Parliament House be located on Capital Hill?

Prior to the debate, you will need to do the following:

- Identify the location of Capital Hill in Canberra.
- Research the Griffin Plan and its links to Capital Hill.
- Research Walter Burley Griffin and his design for the National Capital.
- Study the design of Griffin's Capitol building.
- Study the design of Parliament House.

Meet with your debating team and analyse the information you have gathered.

List your points for debating against the opposing team.

Prepare to debate.

Be creative

Create your own building design to be located on Capital Hill in Canberra.

Draw several architecturally based designs from several different angles.

Highlight major entrances, internal areas and their function.

Describe its purpose, its accessibility by the general public and your source of inspiration for the design.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Activity

Setting the scene

Recognising that the National Capital is a place for all Australians, suburbs, town centres and street names within the National Capital are named in accordance with established policies and guidelines.

Many of Canberra's suburbs have been named after famous Australians or politicians. A Canberra suburb often has a theme for all of its street names, such as sportsmen and women, politicians, musicians, the film industry, inventors, mining towns and river systems.

A new suburb is being developed in your town and it requires a suitable name.

What to do

- Create a name for a suburb using the criteria below.
- List reasons why you have chosen a particular name.
- Present your case to a committee.

Use these criteria for naming a suburb in your town:

- A name for an Australian suburb should reflect Australian history and be a source of national pride and achievement.
- If choosing a person's name for a suburb, that person should have contributed significantly to Australian society. Christian and/or surnames can be used.
- If choosing a person's name for a suburb, that person should have been deceased for at least twelve months.
- Duplication of the name in other suburbs must be avoided.
- A name for a suburb considered likely to cause offence must be avoided in all circumstances.

List in detail the reasons why you came up with a particular name for the suburb.

Nominate five people to form a suburb-naming committee.

Write the suburb name on the blackboard. You have ten minutes to convince the committee that the name you have chosen for the suburb is the best choice.

During this time, the committee should take notes. At the end of all the presentations, discuss which suburb name is the most suitable. Rank five names in order of preference and present to the class your reasons for the committee's decisions.