

## Stamps - Mirrors of Australia

**WebQuest Description:** Stamps are an insight into what is valued by society at any given point in time. Whether it is sporting heroes, environmental issues or the celebration of special events, stamps are issued to commemorate that which is considered important to the collective Australian population. Given the diverse nature of the Australian population, it seems only reasonable that stamps should reflect the wide ranging people and cultures that make up Australia. This webquest aims to answer the question

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

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### Introduction

Who is Australian? Exactly who is the face of Australia? Who is the typical Aussie? These are the questions you will investigate and answer in the course of this WebQuest.

In order to understand Australia as a multicultural nation, you need to understand the principles of diversity that have guided the Australian Government's approach to multiculturalism. The following website provides information on the Government's current multicultural policy. While reading the following policy outline, be sure to note the four principles that underline Australia's approach to multiculturalism. <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/06evolution.htm> Every year Australia Post issues commemorative stamps. Check out some examples of stamps sets that have been recently issued here <http://www.stamps.com.au/shop/stamps>.

How many of the previously issued stamp sets that your group looked at depicted the culturally diverse nature of Australia? Did the nature of the stamps issued reflect the four principles of multiculturalism in Australia?

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### Tasks

The Philatelic Group of Australia Post needs your suggestions!!

The 'what' needs what, I hear you say!?!?

The Philatelic Group of Australia Post is the department that decides what designs will feature on new stamps issued. The images that will be commemorated on our mail, and sent across the country and around the globe, are decided upon by the Philatelic Group

Ideas are needed for stamps that celebrate Australia's diversity and represent what it means to be Australian.

In groups of 4 you will be required to design a series of 8 stamps that reflect the diversity of Australia today. Each member of the group will be responsible for 2 stamps. The group needs to present the series to the class in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. In your presentation you will need to explain why these images represent what it means to be Australian in a diverse multicultural society. Your presentation needs to be a minimum of 10 slides and a maximum of 20 slides. It must include a letter addressed to the Manager of the Philatelic group expressing why these stamps should be issued. You will have 2 weeks of class time and library access to complete your design, presentation and letter. To get started on designing your series of stamps, move on to the process tab!

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### Process

Now that you are in groups of 4, you will each need to contribute two images to be considered as stamps to represent Australia as a multicultural and diverse nation. The images you select, and your reason for selecting them, should reflect what it means to you to be Australian. To research multiculturalism and diversity in Australia, you will each take on one of the four different roles listed. Each role has websites that will help you gather information. You are not limited to only using the internet. You may also make use of other resources available in the library.

Historian - How has the history of migration in Australia developed a diverse population? <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/belongings/about-belongings/australias-migration-history/http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/04fifty.htm> [http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/culturally\\_diverse.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/culturally_diverse.html)

Statistician - How diverse is Australia today? Who makes up the Australian population? [http://www.racismnoway.com.au/library/cultural/http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial\\_discrimination/face\\_facts/chap2.html](http://www.racismnoway.com.au/library/cultural/http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/face_facts/chap2.html)

Human Rights Activist - How have refugees contributed to the multicultural population of Australia? <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/news&events/rw/2010/1%20-%20Background%20Information%20on%20refugees%202010.pdf> [http://www.ras.unimelb.edu.au/Refugees\\_Australian\\_Stories/http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial\\_discrimination/face\\_facts/chap3.html](http://www.ras.unimelb.edu.au/Refugees_Australian_Stories/http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/face_facts/chap3.html)

Reconciliation Activist - How have the many Indigenous cultures of Australia contributed to the national



Category and Score	No Achievement	Limited Achievement	Satisfactory Achievement	Excellent Achievement	Score
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

The task of creating a series of stamps that represents the multicultural diversity of Australia challenged you to investigate your understanding of who is an Australian. By researching different aspects of the diversity of Australia's population, and the various people who are Australian citizens, you have critically evaluated Australian stereotypes. What you have discovered is that migrants, refugees and Indigenous Australians have all played a vital part in the development of the Australian identity.

## Teacher Page

This WebQuest is designed for Year 10 students to co-operatively investigate multiculturalism in Australia. It is designed as a final assessment product for a unit of work that introduces the development of Australia as a multicultural country. It requires students to develop their understanding of the diverse nature of the Australian population, and how this affects the idea of what it means to be an Australian.

By having students investigate different aspects of Australia's multicultural heritage and communities, students are encouraged to break down Aussie stereotypes and uncover the many faces of Australia. By including refugee and Indigenous perspectives in the assignment, the students are required to look past the most obvious cultural groups in Australia and provide a voice for the minority when discussing the concept of Australian identity.

The requirement to produce a set of stamps to reflect their learning connects the work they have done to a real life situation.

At the end of the WebQuest they will have produced a proposal for a new series of stamps that can be sent to Australia Post for consideration. Through the work they have done in class, the students are given the chance to influence the public representation of cultural diversity in Australia.

As students need to work effectively in a group to successfully complete the assessment task, each individual class will need to be considered in regards to student groupings. Students may need to be assigned to specific work groups, rather than selecting their own groups, prior to introducing the task.

Students should be encouraged to use other references available to them in their school libraries during the investigation stage. This encourages students to develop sound research practices for future learning.

The WebQuest does assume basic competencies with PowerPoint presentations, although it does include a link for a basic tutorial if required. If students do require assistance with PowerPoint presentations, this webquest could present the opportunity for cross-curricular education through consultation with the IT department.

The inclusion of a formal letter as part of the assessment also provides opportunities for cross-curricular education. This requirement could be discussed with the English department, and several English lessons could be used to address the mode, tenor and field of formal letters. While this is not essential, as a guide to formal letters is included as a link, it does provide the chance to show students that learning occurs across subjects and KLAs.

The WebQuest is designed to achieve standard 5 of the South Australian Framework for the SOSE strand of societies and culture. It specifically addresses objective 5.9. This requires students to analyse and demonstrate a critical understanding of prejudice as a social construction, and act to counter discrimination through ones own individual knowledge, attitudes and actions. The concept of this WebQuest, and the learning objectives it addresses, could easily be used with other Australian state syllabi to investigate the cultural diversity of identity and citizenship in Australia.

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### Standards

### Credits

### Other