

NAME:

Year 6 – Indigenous Australia – Citizenship

1. What is citizenship?

2. What rights and responsibilities do you think citizens of a country should have?

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES

3. What rights and responsibilities do you have at school?

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES

4. What would it be like if these rights were taken away? Would it be fair if some class members had the rights and other didn't? Why/why not?

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AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

The privileges, freedoms and benefits of living in Australia are balanced by responsibilities. All Australians are responsible for respecting and protecting our country and ensuring that our commitment to a decent society embraces all Australians.

CORE AUSTRALIAN VALUES INCLUDE:

- constitutional government;
- respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual;
- freedom of speech and religion;
- commitment to the rule of law and allegiance to Australia;
- parliamentary democracy;
- a spirit of egalitarianism that embraces mutual respect, tolerance, fair play, compassion for those in need and pursuit of the public good; and
- equal rights before the law and equality of opportunity for all.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO:

- obey the law;
- defend Australia should the need arise; and
- vote in federal and state or territory elections, and in referenda.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS HAVE PRIVILEGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BEING ABLE TO:

- apply for an Australian passport and re-enter Australia freely;
- receive help from an Australian official while overseas;
- access Medicare and Centrelink payments where applicable.

SOURCE: Australian Citizenship: Your right, your responsibility. (2014).

Commonwealth of Australia. Retrieved from <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Citizenship/Documents/your-right-your-responsibility-citizenship.pdf>



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Some sections of the fact book you may find helpful for the following activities are ‘Protection Policies’ (page 8), ‘1965 Freedom Rides’ (page 10), ‘Land Rights’ (page 14) and ‘Stolen Generations’ (page 16). The box on the previous page shows the rights, responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship. Explain how the rights, privileges and values identified below have been denied to Indigenous Australians?

RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND VALUES	HOW HAS THIS RIGHT, PRIVILEGE OR VALUE BEEN DENIED TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS?	WHAT IMPACT WOULD THIS HAVE HAD ON THEIR LIVES?
Respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual		
Freedom of speech and religion		
A spirit of egalitarianism that embraces mutual respect, tolerance, fair play, compassion for those in need and pursuit of the public good		
Equal rights before the law and equality of opportunity for all		
Vote in federal and state or territory elections, and in referenda		



Teacher Guide – Year 6 – Indigenous Australia – Citizenship

1. What is citizenship?

A citizen is a legally recognised subject of a state or commonwealth, and may be either native or naturalised. Citizens are entitled to enjoy all the legal rights and privileges granted by the state/commonwealth. An equally important aspect of citizenship is that it carries with it certain duties and values which citizens are expected to perform/uphold.

Answers to the remaining questions will vary from student to student.

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RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND VALUES	HOW HAS THIS RIGHT, PRIVILEGE OR VALUE BEEN DENIED TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS?	WHAT IMPACT WOULD THIS HAVE HAD ON THEIR LIVES?
Respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual	By 1911, all states except Tasmania had ‘protectionist’ legislation which gave the Chief Protector or Protection Board the power to control almost every aspect of the lives of Indigenous people.	Indigenous Australians had their movement, their right to marry and their right to employment regulated by the Protection Board. They would not have been able to do anything without the approval of the Board.
Freedom of speech and religion	Indigenous Australians who were taken away from their families during the Stolen Generations were denied their Aboriginality and were encouraged to forget their traditional spiritual beliefs.	These children lost their connection with the family and their culture. Culture is a significant part of a person’s identity and thus many members of the Stolen Generations felt like they lost their identity.
A spirit of egalitarianism that embraces mutual respect, tolerance, fair play, compassion for those in need and pursuit of the public good	Mutual respect, tolerance and compassion have been denied to Indigenous Australians since colonisation. They were forced off their traditional lands and have faced many abuses of human rights.	Indigenous Australians have been made to feel like they do not belong in the place they have lived for thousands of years. They have had to struggle greatly to try and obtain equality with the rest of Australia.
Equal rights before the law and equality of opportunity for all	Until 1967, Indigenous Australians were not counted in the Australian Census. In addition, the States were in control of legislation regarding Indigenous Australians. This meant there could be very different laws for the Indigenous people of different States.	As Indigenous Australians were not counted in the Census, it was not possible to understand the demographics of the population and therefore support them. Indigenous Australians moving between States would be unaware of the different laws impacting them.
Vote in federal and state or territory elections, and in referenda	In all Australian colonies except Queensland and Western Australia, Indigenous Australians gained the right to vote at the same time as non-Indigenous Australians. However they were restricted from voting in Federal elections until 1962.	Indigenous Australians were unable to participate in the democratic process, meaning they had no say in who was running the country.