

NAME:

Populate or Perish

Read the 'Populate or Perish'(page 12) section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. What was the goal of 'populate or perish'?
2. In 1947, what percentage of the population was born outside Australia or Europe?
3. What boosted migration at this time?
4. How do you think it would feel if you had to assimilate into a new culture? Imagine you had to move to a new country and shed all of your Australian culture and values. What would you lose? How would this make you feel?
5. Did this period see a change in attitude from the initial introduction of the White Australia Policy in 1901? Justify your response.
6. Why do you think it was important for Australians to be granted citizenship?



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ACTIVITY 2 – SOURCE ANALYSIS

1. What do you think the motive was for creating [Source 3.1 \(page 12\)](#)?
2. Which four countries are referred to in [Source 3.1 \(page 12\)](#)? Why would these particular countries be mentioned?
3. Explain what you think is being shown in [Source 3.2 \(page 13\)](#).
4. Who was [Source 3.3 \(page 13\)](#) targeted at? Refer to specific features of the poster to justify your response.
5. Summarise the main arguments that are being made about changing the White Australia policy in [Source 3.4 \(page 13\)](#).
6. Do you think the perspective shown by the author of [Source 3.4 \(page 13\)](#) would have been popular at the time? Why/why not?



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ACTIVITY 3 – IMMIGRATION POSTER

Create your own propaganda poster encouraging immigration to Australia post-WWII. Your poster needs to be persuasive and make people want to come to Australia. Think about some words and images you can use that will achieve this.



Teacher Guide – Populate or Perish

Read the Populate or Perish section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. What was the goal of ‘populate or perish’?

The goal of the ‘populate or perish’ program in the aftermath of World War II was to increase Australia’s population by 2% per year, with half of that coming from immigration.

2. In 1947, what percentage of the population was born outside Australia or Europe?

In 1947, only 28,935 people in Australia were born outside of Australia or Europe out of a total population of 3,797,370. This is equal to 0.76% of the population.

3. What boosted migration at this time?

Migration to Australia was boosted in 1947 as the Australian government began accepting refugees from European camps. Between 1947 and 1953, over 170,000 displaced persons from countries across Europe were settled in Australia.

4. How do you think it would feel if you had to assimilate into a new culture?

Imagine you had to move to a new country and shed all of your Australian culture and values. What would you lose? How would this make you feel?

Student responses will vary.

5. Did this period see a change in attitude from the initial introduction of the White Australia Policy in 1901? Justify your response.

This period saw some changes in attitude from the initial introduction of the White Australia policy. There was more encouragement of immigration from European countries, as opposed to focusing solely on Britain. However, government policy was still focused on obtaining ‘white’ migrants and the Immigration Act still contained reference to ‘Aliens’. Therefore, there were some changes but on the whole the core principles of the policy remained intact.

6. Why do you think it was important for Australians to be granted citizenship?

Student responses will vary but they should mention the fact that Australians could now be identified as belonging to their own country, rather than just being a part of Britain. This allowed the solidification of a true Australian identity.

ACTIVITY 2 – SOURCE ANALYSIS

1. What do you think the motive was for creating [Source 3.1 \(page 12\)](#)?

This advertisement was created by the Australian Department of Immigration. It has images of migrants from Britain, Netherlands, Germany and Italy. The text ‘Today’s migrants... tomorrow’s Australians’, indicates that the motive for creating this source was to encourage the Australian population to welcome and accept these European migrants in to the country.

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2. Which four countries are referred to in [Source 3.1 \(page 12\)](#)? Why would these particular countries be mentioned?

The four countries referred to in Source 3.1 are Britain, Netherlands, Germany and Italy. I think these particular countries were mentioned as large numbers of people were coming from these countries after World War II.

3. Explain what you think is being shown in [Source 3.2 \(page 12\)](#).

Source 3.2 is showing an older man holding up a child, while two women watch on in the background. All of the people are smiling in the image. There is a large ship in the background and a gangway can be seen with people walking down it. These images, along with the text 'There's a welcome 'down under' for you', indicate that this image is showing a group of migrants arriving in Australia on a P&O ship.

4. Who was [Source 3.3 \(page 12\)](#) targeted at? Refer to specific features of the poster to justify your response.

Source 3.3 was targeted at Australian adults or families. The poster is calling the Australian people to action, which can be seen in the text 'YOU can build Australia'. The text also asks, 'Can you accommodate a British family?' All of this points to the poster being targeted at existing Australians.

5. Summarise the main arguments that are being made about changing the White Australia policy in [Source 3.4 \(page 13\)](#).

First of all, the author was arguing that Australia needed an inflow of Asian migrants in order to increase understanding of Australia's neighbours. It was stated that Asian immigration to Australia would 'prepare us for participation in the inter-racial counsels of the world.' He also argued that the White Australia policy tarnished Australia's international image as non-Europeans found it deeply offensive.

6. Do you think the perspective shown by the author of [Source 3.4 \(page 13\)](#) would have been popular at the time? Why/why not?

No, I think the perspective presented by the author of Source 3.4 would have been unpopular at the time. Following World War II, in which Australia fought directly against Japan, there were negative attitudes towards the Japanese and other immigrants from Asian countries. Therefore, the author's opinion that Australia should accept Asian migrants would have been unpopular among the general Australian public.

ACTIVITY 3 – IMMIGRATION POSTER

Students should be encouraged to research and view a number of immigration posters that have been used by the Australian Government over the years. They may like to draw their own poster or create one electronically.