

NAME:

White Australia Policy

Read 'White Australia policy' (page 4) section.

COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. What was the purpose of the Immigration Restriction Act?
2. What was the Dictation Test and why was it important?
3. How would it have felt to be someone who was not white living in Australia at the time?
4. How do you think Australians' attitudes towards racial diversity have changed over time?
5. What 'pull' factor caused people to migrate to Australia in 1851?

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6. Why did Australians oppose this immigration?

7. Explain how **Source 1.2 (page 5)** and **Source 1.3 (page 5)** corroborate with each other. What do these sources reveal about the attitudes of the Australian population at this point in time? Do you think they are reliable sources of information? Why/why not?



Teacher Guide – White Australia Policy

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COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. What was the purpose of the Immigration Restriction Act?

The purpose of the Immigration Restriction Act was to restrict the immigration of ‘prohibited immigrants’ to Australia, as well as deporting those who were already in the country. Prohibited immigrants were essentially those who were not white.

2. What was the Dictation Test and why was it important?

The Dictation Test was a test that was implemented as part of the Immigration Restriction Act. People attempting to migrate to Australia could be asked to write a 50 word passage in any European language. If they failed, they would be denied entry to Australia. It was an extremely important part of the White Australia policy.

3. How would it have felt to be someone who was not white living in Australia at the time?

Students should mention feelings of exclusion, discrimination, perhaps fear.

4. How do you think Australians’ attitudes towards racial diversity have changed over time?

The attitudes of the general public towards racial diversity have changed significantly since 1901. Australia is now a much more multicultural and tolerant society. However, there is still some evidence of discrimination in Australia, particularly with our treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.

5. What ‘pull’ factor caused people to migrate to Australia in 1851?

The gold rushes, which began in Australia in 1851, were a significant pull factor which attracted a large amount of migrants to the country. Among these were a large number of people from China.

6. Why did Australians oppose this immigration?

Australians opposed immigration at this time as they believed that it would lead to less employment opportunities for themselves.

7. Explain how [Source 1.2 \(page 5\)](#) and [Source 1.3 \(page 5\)](#) corroborate with each other. What do these sources reveal about the attitudes of the Australian population at this point in time? Do you think they are reliable sources of information? Why/why not?

Source 1.2 is a poster that appears to be advertising a song about ‘White Australia’. It also references Australia as the ‘White Man’s Land’, showing that attitudes towards the White Australia policy were positive at this time. Source 1.3 is an application for a postcard design which contains the words ‘A white Australia, keep it so’. The other countries around Australia are all coloured in different colours. This again shows the racist attitudes of the time and the support of the White Australia policy. I believe they are reliable sources of information as they accurately reflect the views of the time. In addition, Source 1.2 is an official poster, while Source 1.3 is an application written on an official government document. Both are primary sources.