

NAME:

# Year 6 – Voting and Referendum

## ACTIVITY 1 – VOTING RIGHTS

Read the 'Voting Rights' (page 10) section of the fact book and complete the activities below.

1. Why is voting an important part of a democracy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How would not being able to vote impact on a group of people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Create a poster (electronically or on paper) encouraging people to enrol to vote. The poster should include information on how to enrol to vote, how to vote, and the benefits of voting. It should also be visually appealing. The Australian Electoral Commission website contains helpful information <https://www.aec.gov.au/>

## ACTIVITY 2 – REFERENDUM

Read the '1967 Referendum' (page 10) section of the fact book and complete the following questions.

1. Why was it important for the federal government, not the states, to have power over Indigenous Australians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the purpose of a census? (You may need to complete further research)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. One of the results of the referendum was that it allowed Indigenous Australians to be counted in the census. Why was this change so important to both Indigenous Australians and the wider population?

# Teacher Guide – Year 6 – Voting and Referendum

## ACTIVITY 1 – VOTING RIGHTS

Read the ‘Voting Rights’ (Page 10) section of the fact book and complete the activities below.

### 1. Why is voting an important part of a democracy?

Voting is important as it allows citizens to participate in the functioning of the government. Voters are able to choose who they think is the best person to represent their interests in government. Voting also creates a sense of responsibility in those who are elected, ensuring they are accountable to those who elected them.

### 2. How would not being able to vote impact on a group of people?

If a group of people are denied the right to vote, those in government will be less likely to listen to the needs of those people. Ultimately, this group will become further disadvantaged due to not being able to participate in the democratic process.

## ACTIVITY 2 – REFERENDUM

Read the ‘1967 Referendum’ (page 10) section of the fact book and complete the following questions.

### 1. Why was it important for the federal government, not the states, to have power over Indigenous Australians?

Before the referendum, each State had different laws regarding Indigenous Australians. For example, in 1963, Indigenous Australians in New South Wales could vote in state elections, marry freely, control their own children, own property and move freely and receive award wages. Meanwhile, Indigenous Australians in Queensland at this time had none of these rights. Therefore, for Indigenous Australians moving around the country, it would be very confusing as to which laws applied in which state.

### 2. What is the purpose of a census? (You may need to complete further research)

The purpose of the census is to measure the number and key characteristics of persons and dwellings in Australia on census night. This provides a reliable basis to estimate the population for each state and territory and local government area for electoral purposes and distribution of government funds. The census also provides the characteristics of the Australian population and its housing for small areas and small population groups to support the planning, administration and policy development activities of governments, business and other users.

### 3. One of the results of the referendum was that it allowed Indigenous Australians to be counted in the census. Why was this change so important to both Indigenous Australians and the wider population?

This change was extremely important as it gave the Australian Government the ability to make statistically informed decisions regarding policies aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the distribution of Commonwealth funds to state and territory governments.