

Our Healing. Our Future.



HealingFoundation
Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

BONUS ACTIVITY: A FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT (60 MINUTE ACTIVITY)

Year 12

Students will explore the impacts of the Australian Constitution on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the steps they've taken forward since it took effect. Students will be presented with perspectives of having a 'First Nations Voice to Parliament' and provide their own critical analysis.

Creating culturally safe spaces in your classroom

- Watch Video: [The Story of The Healing Foundation](#)
- Read: The Healing Foundation's '[Preparing your classroom](#)'. This fact sheet aims to provide teachers with some general information to help you prepare for lessons and includes an overview about:
 - The Stolen Generations
 - Trauma in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context
 - Cultural safety in the classroom.
- Read: Tips teachers can use when talking about racism ([article](#)).

Recap that at any time if students need to talk about their feelings regarding the subject matter the school has support in place.

Share perspectives and opinions in a safe and respectful way.

Debrief at the end of every lesson.

Additional reading for further context: [Joint Statement](#) by The Healing Foundation, Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia and 13YARN.

Curriculum links

- The ways points of view and values are represented ([ACEEN067](#))
- Synthesising ideas and opinions to develop complex argument ([ACEEN071](#))
- Analysing and evaluating how different attitudes and perspectives underpin texts ([ACEEN076](#))
- questioning the assumptions and values in texts ([ACEEN077](#))

Resources

- [The Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)
- [The Voice](#)
- [Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice](#)
- Watch Video: [History is calling](#)
- Watch Video: [Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada's Constitution](#)

Extra Resources/Further Reading

- [The Australian Constitution](#)
- [The Australian Constitution in focus](#)
- [Discussion Paper on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples](#)
- [About Constitutional Recognition](#)

Lesson

INTRODUCTION

- Has anyone heard of the Uluru Statement from the Heart? Discuss.
- Share the Uluru [Statement](#) from the Heart to class: Either scroll down web page reading the Statement out loud, or scroll to the bottom and read the statement in full.
- Discuss as a class:
 - What are the main themes raised in the statement?
 - Was there any new information your learnt from reading the statement?
 - For some of us this is new information. Why?
- Discuss and explain the social, moral, and ethical issues that have been presented in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

INVESTIGATION

- What is the [Australian Constitution](#)?
- Share with the class [The Australian Constitution in focus](#).
- Watch Video: [History is calling](#)
- Discuss as a class:
 - Why do you think is it important to have a First Nations voice?
 - Who makes the decisions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in consideration of their needs, vision and communities?
 - Who should?
- Watch Video: [Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada's Constitution](#)
 - Now, what was the main idea of this video?
 - What was similar in both videos?
 - What was different?
- Ask students to explore, unpack and analyse their own thoughts, feelings and questions in groups, including the key themes raised in both videos.



GOING FURTHER (OPTIONAL: FOR THOSE WISHING TO EXTEND ON CONTENT)

On the 23 March 2023 the Parliament unanimously passed through the Senate the legislation for provisions of the referendum. The legislation to alter the constitution was introduced on 30 March 2023. The Voice referendum will be held between October to December 2023.

- Ask students to individually create a text on 'The Voice to Parliament', with evidence to back their point of view. The text could include multi modes for presenting, such as a slideshow, radio or television ad, newspaper article, or just spoken word. 200-300 words.
- Get students to present this to the class.

CONCLUSION/DEBRIEF

- Discuss reflections after learning.
- Reflect on these statements:
 - "When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish".
 - "They should be our hope for the future".
- What learnings or insights do students have after presentations, or from learning more about the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart'?

