



SERIES Government in Australia
TITLE The Prime Minister
AUTHOR John Lesley
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EXTENT 32 pages, full-colour
GENRE Children's non fiction, HASS
AGE SUITABILITY Interest age 9-12 years
READING AGE Primary school years 4-6
BIC/CBMC YQN/D5N79

ABOUT THE SERIES

Prepare for school trips to Canberra so students get the most out of the visit. Everything you need to know about how government operates all across Australia is in this up-to-date and easy-to-understand series. Written for primary school students in Australia, this series will demystify the way government works.

ABOUT THE BOOK

What does the Australian Prime Minister do, and what is their role in Parliament? Is the Prime Minister the same as a President, and does the Monarch have more power than the Prime Minister? These are complex questions, but this book answers them all in a way that young people will be able to understand.



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TEXT AND IMAGES

This book contains clear and concise text which explains the role, responsibilities and position of the Australian Prime Minister in an age-appropriate way. The information is accompanied by images and illustrations that clarify and support learning in order to demonstrate the Prime Minister's authority in relation to the rest of the Australian Parliament.

The text also covers the history of the position and the influence of overseas political systems, as well as explaining how the Prime Minister is chosen. Included is a list of all the all the Prime Ministers that have been in office from 1901 to 2026.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION IDEAS

THE OPPOSITION

There is always an opposition leader in Australian politics. While the opposition does not necessarily have to disagree with the Prime Minister on everything, they will often engage in debates, or question the government's actions. Discuss why this is an important feature of democracy? What problems would there be if there was no variety or opposition in political parties?

SEPARATION OF POWERS

Discuss the three sections in the separation of powers and what their responsibilities are. Why is this an important feature of Australian government? What is the benefit of distributing power and authority to several people?



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

Aims of This Activity

- To learn about how power is distributed in parliament.

Description of Activity

1. Students are to look through *The Prime Minister* by John Lesley and make a list of all government roles that are mentioned in the book.
2. Beside each role, write a description of their role and what they do in relation to the Prime Minister.

Extension activity

Create a flow chart to visually represent the delegation of power in the Australian Parliament.

ACTIVITY 2

Aims of This Activity

- To more deeply understand the role of the Prime Minister.

Description of Activity

1. During the swearing in ceremony, the new Prime Minister often gives a speech addressing both the parliament and the people of the country. Think about the kinds of things the Prime Minister might say in this speech.
2. Write a speech as though you were just elected Prime Minister of Australia. In your speech you must address your political party, the opposition's political party, and the citizens of your country.
3. In your speech you must make reference to at least three of your responsibilities and how you are planning on fulfilling them.

Extension activity

Students can present this speech to the class.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

YEAR 6

HISTORY (AC9HS6K01) - significant individuals, events and ideas that led to Australia's Federation, the Constitution and democratic system of government.

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP (AC9HS6K06) - the key institutions of Australia's system of government, how it is based on the Westminster system, and the key values and beliefs of Western democracies.





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