

## Activity Sheet to accompany Fact Sheet 2

### Overview

1. Who proclaimed the Commonwealth of Australia?

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2. When did this happen?

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3. The responsibilities of the interim ministry were

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### The first federal election

4. As there were no federal election electoral laws in 1901 the first federal election was held:

according to the electoral laws of New South Wales

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according to the electoral laws of each State

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using no electoral laws at all

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5. Why was the election held on two different days?

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6. Voters marked the Senate ballot papers by

crossing out the names of candidates they did want to elect

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ticking the names of candidates they wanted to elect

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crossing out the names of candidates they did not want to elect

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7. What was the main national issue in the election campaign?

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## DISCUSSION POINT

There was a very high number of informal (incorrect) Senate ballot papers in the election. Why was this and how could the problem have been overcome?

## FURTHER RESEARCH

'Free Traders' versus 'Protectionists'

Research their policies in relation to trade in Australia in 1901.

How do these policies relate to present-day policies relating to free trade and globalisation?

## The opening of Parliament

8. On what date was the first Commonwealth Parliament opened?

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9. What were the first tasks of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives on that day?

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## FURTHER RESEARCH

Find out why the Parliament sat in the Victorian State Parliament House until May 1927.

10. List four celebratory activities that were held when the Commonwealth Parliament was opened in Melbourne.

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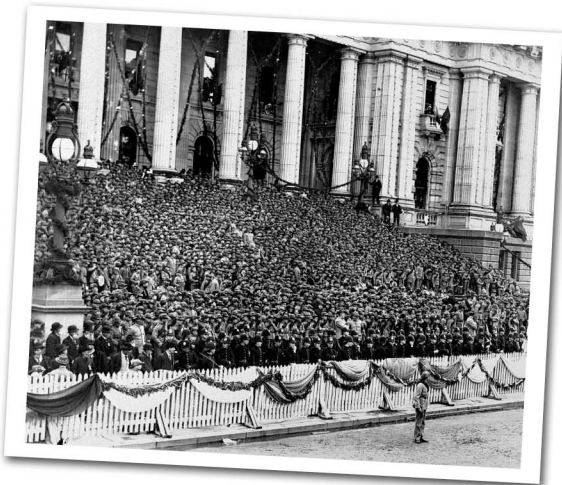
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## FURTHER RESEARCH

Find out what happened at a 'conversazione'.

Plan and hold one in your class.



Crowd on steps of Melbourne's Parliament House to watch the procession of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, 9 May 1901.