

THE TALENT QUEST

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



TIMELINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Crack the number codes to add dates to the symbols timeline.

Write dates here

Australia's first national Coat of Arms showed the kangaroo and the emu supporting the shield, and standing on a grassy mound.

$$1000 + 900 + 8$$

Australia's second Coat of Arms was designed. The symbols of the states were added to the shield. The Commonwealth Star was changed to seven points. Golden Wattle was also added.

!!@

Blue and gold were chosen for the ribbon colours for the medals of the Order of Australia.

$$2000 - (5 \times 5)$$

The Governor-General proclaimed green and gold as Australia's national colours.

$$248 \times 8$$

The Golden Wattle was proclaimed as Australia's floral emblem.

AIHH

National Wattle Day was proclaimed as 1st September.

MCMXCII

Opal proclaimed Australia's national gemstone.

$$5979 \div 3$$



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HISTORY OF OUR SYMBOLS

By 1912, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory had become part of the Commonwealth. What change was made to the Commonwealth Coat of Arms to show this?

In 1984, the Governor General proclaimed the national colours. What does proclaimed mean? How is this different from an announcement?



What is significant about the year that the Golden Wattle was proclaimed as Australia's floral emblem?

SYMBOLISM

Draw lines to connect each symbol to its meaning and purpose.

Purpose	Symbol	Meaning
floral emblem	opal	beaches, mineral wealth, grain harvests, wool fleeces, forests, eucalyptus trees, pastures
formal symbol	green and gold	unity, resilience, remembrance and reflection
national colours	Golden Wattle	Australia's arid interior, the fire of the desert
national gemstone	Commonwealth Coat of Arms	Commonwealth authority and ownership



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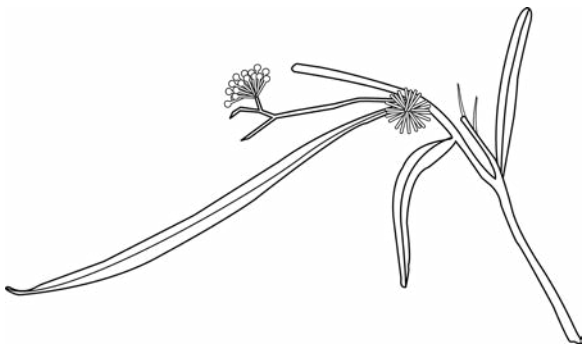
DATE: _____

THE GOLDEN WATTLE

Golden Wattle flowers

The Golden Wattle blooms with sweetly scented, large, fluffy, bright yellow flower heads. Each flower head is a bunch of 40–80 tiny flowers.

Add a bunch of tiny yellow flowers to the four flower head stems to complete the image.



Golden Wattle seeds

Golden Wattle seeds have a special survival mechanism to ensure new wattle plants grow back after sufficient rain. The wattle's secret for survival is that its seeds have tough coats that open after the heat of fires.

Draw the seeds inside the wattle seed pod.



How are wattle seeds symbolic of Australian people?

ATBASH OPALS

Use the ATBASH code to unlock the information about opals.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

Australia's national _____ [TVNHGLMV] is the opal, a stone famous across the world for its brilliant _____ [XLOLFIH]. In Indigenous stories, a _____ [IZRMYLD] created the colours of the opal when it _____ [GLFXSVW] the earth. Opal, also known to Indigenous people as the _____ [URIV] of the desert, is a powerful symbol of Australia's _____ [ZIRW] interior. Australia is home to the world's _____ [SRTSVHG] quality, precious opal. The most famous is _____ [YOZXP] opal from Lightning Ridge in New South Wales.

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FOUR BY FOUR

Choose activities from the grid. Activities with a star ★ might take a bit longer.

ENGLISH	MATHS & SCIENCE	THE ARTS	RESEARCH
<p>Opal Words Mining opals requires unique techniques and equipment. Find out what these opal mining terms mean: augers, puddlers, rumblers, noodling, mullock heaps.</p>	<p>Animals on Arms Investigate the animals on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. What prevents them from easily walking backwards? Are there any other animals that cannot easily walk backwards?</p>	<p>Old and New Compare the artwork of the original Commonwealth Coat of Arms with the revised current version. Use a Venn Diagram to describe the similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Coober Pedy Find out about the opal mining town of Coober Pedy. What is unusual about many of the houses built there? Why were they built this way?</p>
<p>Bush Tucker Invite a member of your local Indigenous community to come and speak to the class about local bush tucker. Ask how wattle can be used. Take notes during the visit and write a short report on the most interesting information.</p>	<p>Genus and Species Plants are classified by genus and species. The Golden Wattle's scientific name is <i>Acacia pycnantha</i>. It is part of a large group of plants in the Acacia genus. Find out more about the scientific classification of plants.</p>	<p>School Arms Design your own school coat of arms. What should be included? How could you make sure the whole school community feels represented?</p>	<p>Aussie Teams All Australian teams wear green and gold. Many also have interesting team names like the women's national basketball team who are known as the Opals. Find out the names of other Australian national teams.</p>
<p>Wattle and Daub 1 <i>Acacias</i> were given the common name wattle because they were so well suited to the 'wattle and daub' technique for building houses. Research the technique and write a procedure to explain how it is done.</p>	<p>Carat Gemstones are measured in carats. Find out what a carat is and how it is used. Compare the value per carat of different gemstones.</p>	<p>Wattle Songs Find songs about wattle. What do they have in common? Can you write your own wattle song? Add instruments and perform your song for the class.</p>	<p>Spectrum of Colour The colour of opals comes from the way light refracts (splits) as it passes through the spheres and gaps of silica in the opal. Research the colours of the spectrum and where else we see them.</p>
<p>★ Numbat News Write a newspaper report about the incident at the Post Office. Include an interview with a postal worker and Laleh and Aiden.</p>	<p>★ Wattle and Daub 2 Research the building technique of 'wattle and daub'. Create a miniature wattle and daub hut using sticks and leaves.</p>	<p>★ In the Hot Seat A volunteer sits on the 'hot seat' and takes on the persona of Neville, Aiden, Laleh or the postal worker. The rest of the class asks them questions that they have to answer in character.</p>	<p>★ Which is Better? What is the difference between black opals and boulder opals? Which is more valuable and why?</p>

