

At Home Guide

LESSON 1: THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

This At Home Guide is designed to spark conversations and activities that you can conduct at home.

Unlocking Our Stories is a trusted and engaging resource for learning about Australia's national symbols. Developed by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, this resource will help you explore the meaning and history of our anthem, flags and other national symbols.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

The Australian National Anthem identifies Australia at home and overseas. It is used at official and public ceremonies, and sporting and community events.

Originally composed in 1878 by Peter Dodds McCormick, the Australian National Anthem has undergone a number of changes. In 2021, the second line was changed from 'For we are young and free' to 'For we are one and free'.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Australia is a vibrant, multicultural country. We are home to the world's oldest continuous cultures. In 2020, there were over 7.6 million migrants living in Australia with almost 30% of Australia's population born overseas.¹ One in two Australians have parents who were born overseas.²

This rich, cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is part of our national identity.

Unlocking Our Stories encourages all Australians to be culturally inclusive.

¹ ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2020) [Migration, Australia](#), ABS website, accessed 17 March 2022.

² ABS (2017) [Cultural Diversity in Australia](#), ABS website, accessed 17 March 2022.



LISTEN: [The Australian National Anthem](#)



Verse 1

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Verse 2

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.



READ THE STORY AT HOME

Read the Prologue and Chapter 1 of *The Case of the Missing Emu*. In this chapter, the characters discover the meaning of the Australian National Anthem.

Story overview

Emu has gone missing from the Commonwealth Coat of Arms on Old Parliament House. Emu is on a quest to bring all Australians together. The only clue that Emu left was a sticky note with the letter 'E'. Mila and Kai, Detectives-in-Training, need to help Kangaroo by finding all of the sticky notes Emu has left around town. But will they solve the case before the Prime Minister leads the next school excursion to Old Parliament House? Time is ticking!

Discussion Questions

Use the questions to help relate the story to personal experiences.

1. Why do you think Emu wants to 'bring all Australians together'? When was the last time our family all came together?
2. Do you understand the meaning of all of the words in the Anthem?
3. What do you think the words 'Advance Australia Fair' mean?

PROTOCOLS

The Australian National Anthem is an important national symbol of Australia and should be treated with respect and dignity. All Australians are encouraged to sing the Australian National Anthem and there are protocols (official procedures) to assist you when singing or performing the Anthem at a ceremony or public event.

1. Traditionally, only the first verse of the Australian National Anthem is used but both verses can be used.
2. When the Australian National Anthem is played at a ceremony or public event it is customary to stand.
3. The event organiser can choose when the Anthem is played during an event.
4. The tune or tempo of the Australian National Anthem should not be modified and alternative words should not be used.
5. Any musical instrument may be incorporated into a performance of the Anthem.
6. The Australian National Anthem should be performed in English.
7. Individuals or organisations can perform Advance Australia Fair in a language other than English, but this should not be represented as a version of the Australian National Anthem. As a result, protocols do not apply to its use e.g. it is not necessary to stand when the song is played.
8. If Advance Australia Fair is performed in a language other than English, along with the Australian National Anthem, the Anthem should be played first.
9. When the Australian National Anthem is played at the same event as the anthem of another nation, you should play the anthem of the visiting nation first.



PRACTISE



Interactive lesson

Complete the online lesson on the website. Work together to continue the story while learning about the National Anthem.



Printable Activity Sheets

Choose some fun activities from the worksheet and complete them together.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

More information about the [National Anthem](#)

[Printable lyrics](#) for the Australian National Anthem

[Video recordings](#)

GO FURTHER



Memorise the Words

- Print the words to the National Anthem.
- Set up a challenge to memorise two verses of the National Anthem.
- Try to sing the Anthem next time you go to an official event.



Many Anthems

- Where have you heard the National Anthem?
- Search for other anthems from around the world. Listen to the tune and read the lyrics or translation.
- If your family has ties with another country, listen to the anthem of that country. Ask students how they think it compares to the Australian National Anthem.



One and Free

The words of the second line were recently changed from 'young and free' to 'one and free'.

- With the student, discuss the long history of First Nations peoples in this country. Encourage them to ask questions and research further.
- Explore how an anthem can bring a country together and make them 'one'? Can the student think of other times and ways they have felt 'one' with a community?

