

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'.



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.

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.



READ THE STORY AT HOME

Read the Prologue and Chapter 1 of **The Talent Quest**. In this chapter, the characters explore the protocols for respectful use of the Australian National Anthem.

Story overview

Laleh and Aidan have entered the local talent quest but their hopes of winning are threatened by a mischievous marsupial. Neville the numbat wants to be famous but no one gives him any attention. Sabotaging national symbols all across the city in an effort to be noticed, Neville leaves poetic clues for Laleh and Aidan to solve. Can they save the symbols and get their shot at fame or will Neville steal the show?

Discussion Questions

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

1. What is the difference between a rule and a protocol? What are the rules and protocols in your house?
2. Why do you think there are so many protocols for using the Anthem correctly?
3. Does anyone in your house know the protocols for using the Anthem?

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



Many Anthems, Many Rules

- If your family has ties with another country, listen to the anthem of that country.
- How does it compare with the Australian National Anthem?
- What are the rules or protocols for the use of that anthem?



Public Opinion

Did you know that 'Advance Australia Fair' was chosen as the anthem in a public opinion poll? 'Waltzing Matilda' was the second choice.

- Listen to the words of Waltzing Matilda and talk about the story it tells. Why do you think Australians like this song?
- Have you ever participated in a poll? Talk about your experience.
- Has the student ever participated in a poll at school? Did they use a graph or chart to record the data?
- Create a family poll at home and discuss the concept of 'majority rules'.



One and Free

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

- How were you taught about Australian history at school? Talk with the student about their own perspective of Australian history.
- With the student, discuss the long history of First Nations peoples in this country. Encourage them to ask questions and research further.

