

At Home Guide

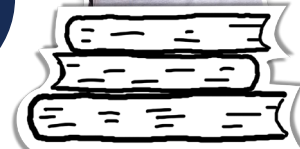
LESSON 1: THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

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.



Years
7-8



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 Great Australian <Virtual> Race**. In this chapter, the characters explore the history of the Australian National Anthem and the protocols for its respectful use.

Story overview

Students play in the first person as they compete to be part of a reality program – **The Great Australian <Virtual> Race**. If they complete all three challenge rounds they will make it through to the final race. Can they complete all the challenges or will The Hacker's tricks defeat them? Students are tested in the first round to show what they know about the Australian National Anthem.

Discussion Questions

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

1. When have you sung or heard the Australian National Anthem?
2. Why do countries have a national anthem?
3. Does anyone in your house know the words of the Australian National 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



Anthems of the World

- If your family has ties with another country, listen to the anthem of that country.
- How is it similar to the Australian National Anthem? How is it different?
- Describe how both anthems make you feel.



In Other Worlds

Did you know that 'Advance Australia Fair' can be sung in any language but is not considered an official version of the Anthem?

- If you speak a language other than English at home, find a version of the 'Advance Australia Fair' in that language.
- Many countries sing their Anthem in two languages. Why doesn't this happen in Australia?
- Talk about the many First Nations languages of Australia. Find a version of 'Advance Australia Fair' in First Nations language and compare it to the Anthem.



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 how this view has changed.
- How do these changes promote cultural inclusion?

