

# THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN <VIRTUAL> RACE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## CAESAR CIPHER

The Hacker has used a Caesar cipher to code the elements of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

A Caesar cipher is based on an alphabet shift where each letter is replaced by another letter located a little further along in the alphabet.



Hint: The amount of shift is equal to the number of points on the Commonwealth Star.

Can you crack the codes to unlock the elements of this important national symbol?

JVTTVUDLHSAO ZAHY

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DYLHAO

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RHUNHYVV

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LTB

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NVSKLU DHAASL

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ZJYVSS

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ZOPLSK

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## SYMBOLISM

What is the symbolism of the kangaroo and emu?

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What is symbolised by the shield?

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## A NATIONAL SIGNATURE

Do you have a signature? It is part of your **personal identity**. It is a unique symbol that helps prove who you are.

Our national symbols are part of our **national identity** – like a signature for the whole country. They can be used to show where we are from and show how we are unique from other countries.

For example, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms appears on the cover of an Australian passport.

Write how each national symbol represents something about Australia, or Australians.

National Symbol	How it represents Australia or Australians
Commonwealth Coat of Arms	
Green and gold colours	
Golden Wattle	
Opals	

How well do you think the national symbols represent all Australians?

Which symbol do you feel most connected to? Why?





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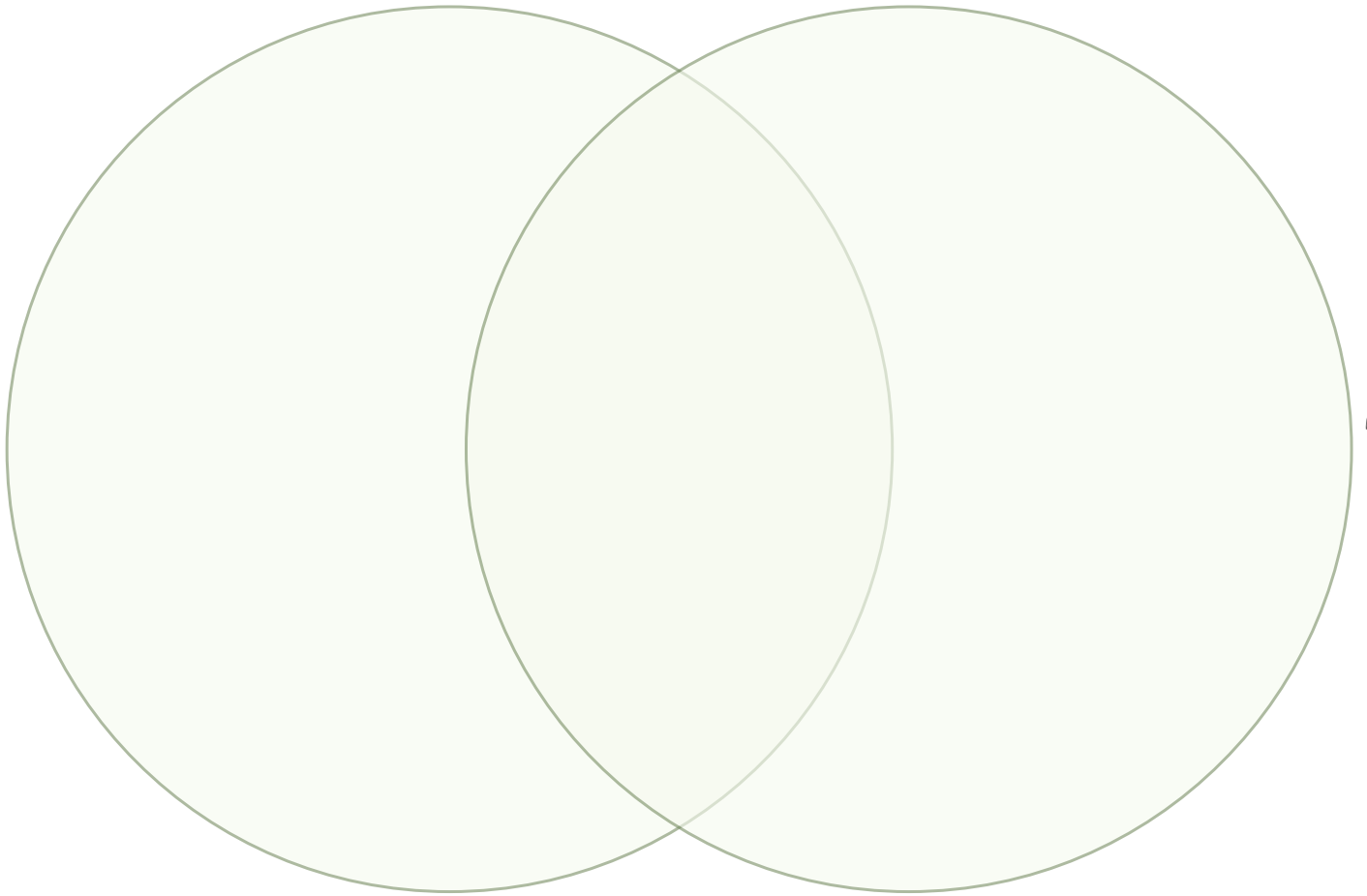
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

Complete the Venn Diagram to show the things that represent your personal identity compared to the national identity. The overlapping area is for anything that represents both you and Australia.

Things that represent **my identity**

Things that represent **Australia's identity**



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## FOUR BY FOUR

Choose activities from the grid.

ENGLISH	MATHS & SCIENCE	THE ARTS	RESEARCH
<p><b>Vexing Vocabulary</b> Use words to paint a picture of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms? Write a detailed description of each symbol of the Arms, their size and colour and how they are positioned.</p>	<p><b>Symmetrical Symbols</b> How symmetrical is the Coat of Arms? Analyse the elements and create a scale of symmetry based on the number of symmetrical parts.</p>	<p><b>Mind's Eye</b> Can you picture the Commonwealth Coat of Arms in your mind? Without looking at it, draw it from your memory and check for accuracy.</p>	<p><b>What's in a Name?</b> The word 'Australia' appears on the scroll of the Arms. Where does the name Australia come from? What is its origin and etymology? What does it mean? Where else is its root word used?</p>
<p><b>Wattle Poem</b> Find and read the poem The Wattle by Henry Lawson. Analyse the rhythm and rhyming pattern of the lyrics. Is there any figurative language or imagery used? What is Lawson's view of wattle? How does it make you feel?</p>	<p><b>Wattle Seed</b> Wattle seed can be used in various forms – whole, raw, cooked, ground. Find out how wattle seed is grown, harvested and processed. Create a flowchart diagram to illustrate the process.</p>	<p><b>Crest Test</b> The official crest of the Governor-General features the Golden Wattle as well as a symbol of His Majesty The King. Without researching the crest, design your own version. Compare it to the official crest. Were they similar?</p>	<p><b>Worldwide Wattle</b> Where else does wattle grow? Is it a native or introduced species? What environments suit wattle? How is wattle viewed in other countries?</p>
<p><b>Read and Retell</b> Find and read an Indigenous story of how opals were created. Retell the story in your own words either in writing or as an oral presentation.</p>	<p><b>Gemstone Scores</b> How does the value of opal compare to other precious gemstones? What determines their value? How are they scored? Create a list of gemstones from most valuable to least. Make sure you include opals.</p>	<p><b>Opal Artwork</b> Create an opal-inspired artwork by adding a single drop of clear nail polish to a bowl of water then dipping a small piece of black cardstock into the bowl.</p>	<p><b>Mining Impact</b> Research the mining techniques used to extract opals from the ground. What is the impact on the environment? What rules are in place to protect the environment?</p>
<p><b>Biographical Narrative</b> Find out about an Australian whose life was changed when they represented Australia in the green and gold. Write the main events of their life as a biographical story with the language features of a narrative.</p>	<p><b>Tessellation Nation</b> Create a tessellating pattern using arrow heads – one arrow points right for the direction of the kangaroo and coloured green. The other arrow points left for the emu and is coloured gold.</p>	<p><b>Team Australia</b> Use the green and gold colours to design the official uniform of the next Australian Olympic team. Research previous designs for inspiration. Can you include any other national symbols in your design?</p>	<p><b>Exact Colours</b> The green and gold of Australia have specified colour codes. Over the years, some sporting teams have modified the colours to suit trends and preferences. Research the evolution of the Australian Rugby Union jersey and how a final, enduring colour was selected.</p>