COMPLEMENTARY CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

What is an Australian?
Hold a class brainstorm and ask students to provide words they would use to describe a 'typical' Australian. Discuss questions such as:

- Do you think that this list is different to the list Australian school children would have brainstormed one hundred years ago? Has our understanding of what it means to be Australian changed over time?
- Do you think such a list would be different for other Australians, in different places or with different experiences, in our current day?
- What makes you an Australian?

Create a class mind map about what it is to be Australian.

Celebrate Australia
Hold a class discussion about what students think represents Australian food, clothing, songs and ways of celebrating. Have an Australian class party – bring *Australian* food, wear *Australian* clothing, sing *Australian* songs, tell *Australian* stories etc.

Floral emblems
Ask students to identify and discuss the floral emblem for their State and Territory. Identify plants growing in your school grounds and ask your students to illustrate one to create a floral emblem for your school. (State and Territory flora and fauna emblems can be found at *Guide to Australia* www.csu.edu.au/australia.)

Possum Magic
Read *Possum Magic* by Mem Fox and identify and discuss symbols of Australia mentioned in the story.

Flags
Ask students to identify and research their State/Territory flag, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flag and the Australian Flag (www.ausflag.com.au.) Create a class flag or design a new Australian flag.

Advertising Australia
Ask students to create a poster that advertises Australia for an overseas tourist market. What symbols of Australia will they include to attract people to come and holiday in Australia?

Symbols and meanings
Ask students to organise a collection of five objects that symbolise something about them (eg, a sport they play, a part of Australia they have visited, a club they belong to). Organise for them to present objects to the class, and encourage their classmates to try and work out what the objects symbolise.

The National Anthem
Organise students to work in groups to write a new national anthem for Australia. They could decide to use a tune they already know (eg, Waltzing Matilda). Discuss the images of Australia their anthems bring to life. Explore the words of Advance Australia Fair and discuss the images of Australia the anthem creates. Discuss how the students' anthems differ from our national anthem.

national museum australia