

ANSWERS — HOW AUSTRALIA BECAME A FEDERATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

Before 1901 → discussions about Federation → Constitution → 1 January 1901.

New: Commonwealth government. Continued: state governments and powers.

First Nations histories precede colonisation. Political participation around Federation was unequal. The overview is simplified, not a complete account of all colonial voting processes.

ANSWERS — FEDERATION TIMELINE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

1. Card C: Before the 1890s — Six British colonies govern separately.
2. Card F: 1890 — Delegates discuss Federation at a conference in Melbourne.
3. Card E: 1891 and 1897–1898 — Conventions develop and debate a draft federal Constitution.
4. Card A: 1898–1900 — Colonial referendums take place; the British Parliament passes the Constitution Act in 1900.
5. Card B: 1 January 1901 — The Commonwealth of Australia is established; the colonies become states.
6. Card D: 9 May 1901 — The first federal Parliament opens in Melbourne.

States kept governments and law-making powers. The chronology uses broad stages; conventions and colonial votes overlapped.

ANSWERS — WHY FEDERATE?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

1. Defence → C: Coordinate defence across the country.
2. Trade between colonies → E: Reduce barriers to trade between colonies.
3. Immigration policy of the era → D: Create a national approach to immigration.
4. Transport and communication → A: Coordinate links between regions.
5. National government → B: Make decisions on shared national matters.

Discussion: a policy can coordinate a national response while still excluding or harming people. Historical immigration policies involved racism. Accept thoughtful answers about whose voices were heard and excluded.

ANSWERS — BEFORE AND AFTER FEDERATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

1. Six separate British colonies → Before
2. A new Commonwealth government → After
3. The former colonies continue as states → After
4. Separate colonial governments → Before
5. State governments still manage state matters → After
6. No Commonwealth Parliament yet → Before
7. A federal Parliament can make laws within its powers → After
8. Colonies discuss joining a federation → Before

State governments did not disappear. Federation created the Commonwealth alongside the states.