



Federation of Australia Scavenger Hunt

Learn more about how the six colonies of Australia united to become the states of the Commonwealth of Australia. Search Federation of Australia article and answer these questions.

Find It!

1. What is the Federation of Australia?
2. When did the British government become prepared to grant the request for self-government by the colonies?
3. What issues united the colonies to seek federation?
4. What was the Federal Council?
5. How did the fiscal problem create an obstacle to federation?
6. What were some of the difficulties faced by the Federal Council?
7. What did Henry Parkes's speech at Tenterfield, New South Wales call for?
8. What did the first draft of the constitution propose?
9. How did Edmund Barton contribute to popularising the federation movement?
10. In what referendum did all colonies vote in favour of federation?

Learn More!

- Learn more about Australia's first Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton.

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar724239>

- Learn more about the man referred to as the “Father of Federation”, Sir Henry Parkes:

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar753219>

- Learn what life was like under the colonies in Australia:

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar742153>

- Learn about the history of events leading to federation in *Timelines*:

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wbtimelines/viewtimelines?source=WB&timelineld=53a430f1e4b031f3938a67f5>

Answer Key

1. Federation of Australia is when six Australian colonies became states of the Commonwealth of Australia.
2. 1850.
3. Colonies were united on several issues, i) controlling immigration of Chinese ii) controlling blackbirding in Queensland iii) Fear of European expansion in neighbouring islands.
4. The Federal Council was a form of intercolonial legislative body. It included New Zealand and Fiji.
5. The fiscal problem divided NSW and Victoria on policies of tariffs and free trade.
6. The Federal Council needed to raise revenue to manage affairs, but the opposition to tariffs made this difficult. The Federal Council could make laws, but the laws required approval by both the British government and colony governments.
7. Henry Parkes called on all Australians to work for the establishment of a central parliament with executive powers during his speech at Tenterfield, New South Wales.
8. The first draft of the constitution proposed a federal government in the Commonwealth of Australia, consisting of six states instead of six colonies.
9. Edmund Barton began a campaign for federation in 1893. He toured NSW, appealing to members of all electorates to support the cause of federation.
10. All colonies participated in the second referendum in 1899 and all recorded majorities in favour for Federation.