

12 Glossary

Aboriginal	An Aboriginal person is a person of Aboriginal descent who identifies as an Aboriginal person and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.
Anzac	The word <i>Anzac</i> refers to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) troops who fought at Gallipoli in Turkey from April to December 1915.
ANZUS	A defence security pact for the Pacific region signed in 1951 by Australia, New Zealand the United States. The name ANZUS is derived from the initials of the three signatory nations.
archives	Refers both to collections of public records, documents, etc and the place/s where they are stored.
assimilation	A policy requiring all people living in a community, regardless of their cultural background or country of origin, to adopt the same manner of living as the dominant culture.
causation	The link between the cause and effect of an historical event.
ensorship	Examination of books, news reports, films, plays and other material for the purpose of suppressing parts deemed to be objectionable on moral, political or other grounds. At the outbreak of WWI, censorship controls were introduced to ‘safeguard national security’. In WWII, the <i>National Security Act</i> (1939) imposed a system of censorship especially over newspapers.
chronology	According to time sequence. A chronology places events and dates in historical order.
Civics	An identifiable body of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the organisation and working of society, including a country’s political and social heritage, democratic processes, government, public administration and judicial systems.
Citizenship	The term ‘citizenship’ has both legal and social meanings. In a legal sense, it is that set of rights and responsibilities granted to a people in recognition of their attachment to a particular country. In a social sense, it refers to the participation of people in their community as they fulfill and debate their rights and responsibilities.
colonisation	A process by which a different system of government is established by one nation over another group of peoples. It involves the colonial power asserting and enforcing its sovereignty according to its own law, rather than by the laws of the colonised.
country/land	In the context of Aboriginal peoples, is used to describe a specific area of a nation or clan including physical, linguistic and spiritual features.
conscription	Compulsory enlistment for military service.
Constitution	The fundamental rules that establish how a country is governed, typically establishing the role and powers of parliament, the executive and the judiciary.

Early Modern	Broadly, the period of history from the end of the Middle Ages to about the time of the French Revolution and the beginnings of the Economic Revolution.
emigration	The act of leaving one's country of birth to settle permanently in another country.
empire	A collection of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor or other powerful sovereign or government.
evidence	The information that tends to prove or disprove a conclusion. It can be used to establish the fact or point in question.
Federation	The voluntary union of the six Australian colonies which came into being on January 1 st 1901. It involved the colonies transferring certain powers to the Federal or Commonwealth Government (eg defence, foreign affairs, immigration) while retaining control over other responsibilities (eg education, health, transport) under a written Constitution.
franchise	The right to vote.
Gallipoli	The anglicised name of the peninsula in Turkey where the Anzac and other Allied troops fought against Turkish forces. It was the first land battle fought by Australian soldiers in World War I and lasted from April to December 1915.
Great Depression	A period of the deepest world wide economic decline in history. It began in October 1929 following the collapse of the Wall Street Stock and ended in about 1934.
heritage	That which belongs to an individual, group, community or nation as a result of birth, inheritance or membership. It can also be applied to significant examples of the built or natural environment.
immigration	A social process whereby people come to a new land with the intention of permanently settling there.
Indigenous Peoples	This term is used when referring collectively to the first peoples of a land in international communities. The term Indigenous Australians is used when speaking about both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within Australia.
Indochina conflict	Broadly, this refers to the three Indochina Wars, beginning in 1949 and ending in 1979. Specifically, it refers to the Vietnam or 'American' War of the 1960s and early 1970s in which Australia was an active participant.
integration	A government policy in relation to both Aboriginal peoples and migrant groups which sought to facilitate their amalgamation into mainstream Australian society, without requiring them to abandon their original culture/s.
internment	During both World Wars, people who were considered 'alien' by the government, whether they were naturalised or Australian-born, were held in prisons for varying lengths of time because they were considered a threat to national security.

interpretation	A way of understanding and explaining what has happened in the past. The discipline of History acknowledges that there is often more than one view of what has happened in the past.
invasion	The forced takeover of land.
land	The term ‘land’ is used by Aboriginal people to describe their spirituality and ecosystems including Dreamings, all living things including totems, and all physical factors, such as sacred sites, water, air and geographical factors.
land rights	The continuing struggle of Indigenous Australians to regain possession of their lands.
Mabo	(<i>see Native Title</i>) Eddie Koiki Mabo, whose Murray Island land claim led the High Court to recognise, for the first time, that a form of land title existed prior to Australia’s occupation by Great Britain in 1788. The judgment, made in 1993, is usually referred to as Mabo.
medieval	The period of history from the end of the Western Roman Empire in 430AD to the Renaissance and Reformation period of Europe in the sixteenth century.
multiculturalism	A policy based on the promotion of cultural diversity which encourages peoples of different cultural/ethnic origins to retain their own cultures, while participating as active and responsible citizens of the dominant culture.
protection	A government policy towards Aboriginal peoples which sought to protect them from the effects of violence, disease and exploitation as a result of European settlement. It was based on a belief that Aboriginal peoples were doomed to extinction and should be given some protection to live out their last years in peace.
Native Title	‘Native Title’ is the name given by the High Court to Indigenous property rights recognised by the court in the <i>Mabo</i> judgment (3 June 1992). The <i>Mabo</i> judgment overthrew the concept of <i>terra nullius</i> – that the land of Australia had belonged to no one when the British arrived in 1788. The judgment found that a native title to land existed in 1788 and may continue to exist provided it has not been extinguished by subsequent acts of government and provided Indigenous groups continue to observe their traditional laws and customs. The High Court’s <i>Wik</i> judgment (December 1996) decided an issue left unresolved by the <i>Mabo</i> judgment when it determined that native title could coexist with other rights on land held under a pastoral lease.
non-Aboriginal	People in Australia who do not and are not identified as Aboriginal (<i>see Aboriginal</i>).
Ottoman Empire	The Empire of the Turks founded about 1300AD by Osman which controlled large amounts of territory in Asia, Africa and Europe for more than six centuries until its collapse as a result of WWI.

Pacific War	That part of World War II that was fought in the Pacific Ocean against the Japanese by Allied forces from December 1941 to August 1945. It is where the majority of Australian forces saw action.
perspective	A point of view from which historical events, problems and issues can be analysed eg a gender perspective (either masculine or feminine) of the past.
rationing	Government-imposed restrictions on the allowance of people's food, clothing and fuel in both World Wars for the purpose of maintaining the nation's war effort.
reconciliation	A Commonwealth initiative to promote understanding between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community and to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.
referendum	Under the Australian Constitution, a referendum is used by a government to formally seek the opinion of the people on a particular issue or change the Constitution. To succeed, a referendum must attract a majority of voters voting 'Yes' and a majority of States also voting 'Yes'.
SEATO	An alliance organised in 1954 by representatives of Australia, France, Great Britain, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States. The letters stand for South East Asia Treaty Organisation. Its main aim was to contain the spread of communism in Indochina. It was disbanded in 1977.
self-determination	The effective participation of Aboriginal peoples in all decision-making that affects them.
society	A group of people living in a discrete geographical area, sharing common systems reflected in their customs, values, laws, arts and technology.
source	Any written or non-written materials that can be used to investigate the past. A source becomes ' evidence ' (<i>see</i> above) when it is used to support or refute a viewpoint.
suffrage	The right to vote. All Australian citizens over the age of eighteen have this right.
synthesis	A process whereby a student brings together parts or elements of an historical inquiry to form a complete picture of the situation or events.
Terra nullius	(<i>see</i> Native Title) A concept in international law meaning 'a territory belonging to no-one' or 'over which no-one claims ownership'. The concept has been used to justify the invasion and colonisation of Australia.