



Museum Memories

General Activities

These are some classroom activities that are useful for the topic of immigration.

To Read: read two or more stories that describe an immigration experience, then compare and contrast. A list of books that cover immigration can be found here:

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getfacts/international/journeys/maps-plus/books/>

<https://www.readings.com.au/collection/childrens-books-about-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

Some relevant works that explore migrant stories include: • Morris Gleitzman (2004) *Girl Underground*, Penguin Books • Morris Gleitzman (2002) *Boy Overboard*, Penguin Books • David Miller (2004) *Refugees* Curriculum Press • Liz Lofthouse (2007) *Ziba Came on a Boat*, Kane/Miller Book Publishers • John Marsden (2008) *Home and Away*, Lothian Books, Hachette Australia • Shaun Tan (2006) *The Arrival*, Hodder Children's Books • Anh Do and Suzanne Do (2011) *The Little Refugee*, Allen & Unwin • Ben Morely (2009) *The Silence Seeker*, Random House • Donna Rawlins, Heather Potter & Mark Jackson (2018) *Waves - for those who come across the sea*, Black Dog.

To Debate:

Hold a class debate on the "Australian Flag" - should it be changed to reflect the current Australian Society?

To Make:

Design and make a new Australian Flag.

Design a coat of arms that represents your family.

In a group, create a collage that represents one culture. Use food, travel brochures, newspapers, or print-outs in your collage. Or create a presentation using "Prezi" or Powerpoint pages with images from the web.

To Research:

Find out how to say 'hello', 'thank you' and 'welcome' in as many languages as you can. Feature a different language each day.

Make a list of everyday words that have been incorporated into our daily life from other languages.

To Create

Write a survival guide for a new student who has recently arrived from overseas. Consider what information would be important to help them through the first few days of school.

To Write:

Imagine you are a tour guide for your local area. Plan an itinerary for a 3-hour tour of places of interest, as a way of introducing a newcomer to the area.

To Play:

Collect musical instruments from as many different cultures as possible. In groups, create a piece of music that is representative of the many people that call Australia home.

To Listen:

Find music from different times linked to the theme of migration (ie "Bound for Botany Bay" "Danny Boy")

To Consider:

Most people would probably agree that an Australian is someone who lives in Australia, is a citizen and obeys Australia's rules, but is also someone who practises their cultural identity. This means that migrants can be Australian, but still do things they did in their homeland. Write what being an Australian means to you.

Consider the differences between your own community and the communities of others. Discuss how they would feel if they moved away from their community.

To Discover:

Students select and research a country from a world map. Have them research: climate, landform, people, language, currency, schools and education, transport.

Have the students imagine needing to move to this place. Ask the students to write a diary documenting their imaginary journey to their new country. They should include illustrations and maps that traces their journey.

The students should consider the mixed emotions associated with migration

In small groups, ask the students to roleplay saying goodbye to their best friends for the last time. Please remember to debrief the students after the exercise.

Have the students produce a postcard or write a letter to their best friend describing their experiences of their new home.

Welcome Wall

Welcome Wall is a tribute to the significant contributions migrants have made to Australia's social, cultural, economic and political development. It's a celebration of individual lives. It represents some of the myriad tales that comprise migration experiences of contribution, hardship, homesickness, deprivation, courage, hope and fulfilment.



Welcome Wall: Image: Andrew Frolows, ANMM

A commemorative plaque, or simply plaque, is a plate of metal, ceramic, stone, wood, or other material, typically attached to a wall, stone, or other vertical surface, and bearing text or an image in relief, or both, in memory of one or more persons, an event, a former use of the place, or some other thing. The Welcome Wall at the Australian National Maritime Museum stands in honour of all those who have migrated from countries around the world to live in Australia. Generate your own migration commemoration plaque to be displayed in the classroom / school.

Read some of the personal stories from the Welcome Wall:

<https://www.sea.museum/discover/welcome-wall/stories>

To create: use one of the personal stories and rewrite the ending.

To create: using one of the personal stories create a comic strip of the key moments in the personal story.

To act: based on one of the migration stories create a scene of how they would be feeling (either leaving their home country, their journey, or arriving in Australia.)

To act: hot-seat one of the people in the personal stories found on the webpage.

To consider: migrants leave their home countries for many reasons, look at their personal stories and consider what push pull factors that might have influenced their decision.

To create: create a class graph of the countries the students families have come from, compare the results with another class in your school and or in a different area.

Alternative: Take a survey of your class or school. Record how many languages are spoken and how many people were born or whose parents were born overseas. Use a graph to record your results (paper or computer generated.)