

We're All Australians now ! Teacher's notes.

"We're all Australians now" is the title of a poem written in 1916 by Banjo Paterson to our soldiers. Banjo was known not just as a poet but as a social commentator, and his poem struck a nerve with the soldiers as well as the entire nation. A series of events led up to this point in our nation's history, and some of the key principles that were in place then are explored in the show, "We're All Australians now".

This presentation looks at ideals that create successful societies and countries, and states examples in our history where some of these ideals have been portrayed. Four of these ideals covered in the show are:

Sustainability. Productivity. Freedom. Responsibility.

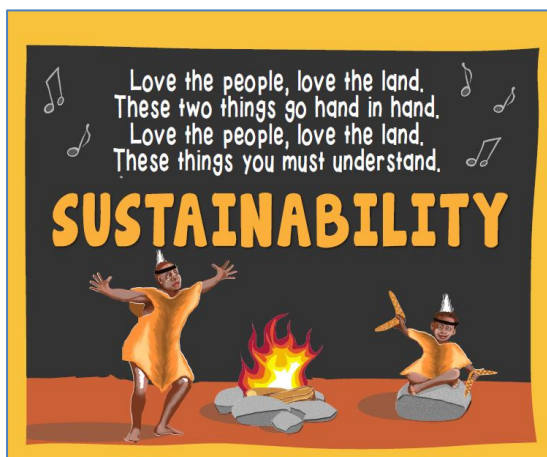
These ideals must be held deep in the nation's consciousness for them to be active in the way the society functions.

1. **Sustainability.** The Aboriginal way of life exemplifies sustainability, as evidenced by the harmonious relationship between themselves and the land.
2. **Productivity.** With the emphasis on Agriculture throughout the 1800's, a great deal of manual labour was required.
3. **Freedom.** As the Colony grew. The relationship between the people and the Government developed, and democratic principles were established.
4. **Responsibility.** Once we had become a nation, we had to show that we had a consciousness, standing by our convictions to maintain the same freedom elsewhere that we enjoyed here.

The concept of **change** is covered in the presentation as it proceeds in chronological order from the Dreamtime era, through the Colonial times and into a modern democracy.

The concept of **continuity** is represented by a tree, which grows in three stages throughout the performance.

Sustainability and the Dreamtime Era.



Question. Identify some of the practises in the Aboriginal way of life that shows they had a sustainable relationship with the land.

Answer . (i) Nomadic lifestyle. In areas where there were few resources to live on, they would move around to allow the land to regenerate after being there. Aboriginals only harvested the natural bounty of the land.

(ii) Population. The number of people in a tribe was limited so they did not have to take more than the land could provide.

(iii) Diet. Some people in the tribe could not eat certain types of animals because it was not in their “totem”. This meant a variety of animals were hunted, not just one or two types so that no species were hunted to extinction.

Productivity and the Colonial Times.



Question: Identify some of the Agricultural practises that were labour intensive.

Answer: (i) Shearing. Before the year 1900 most of it was done by hand shears. This took a lot of strength and endurance, and usually gave the shearer a bad back after years of work.

(ii) Manual handling of sacks and bales. Grain was stored in sacks and hay in bales, which had to be loaded by hand onto carts and other forms of transport.

(iii) Horse-drawn implements such as ploughs had to be operated by the farmer, taking much more effort than a tractor doing the same job.

(iv) Holes for fence-posts were dug by hand.

Because of this Farmers would often have large families of 10 or more children.

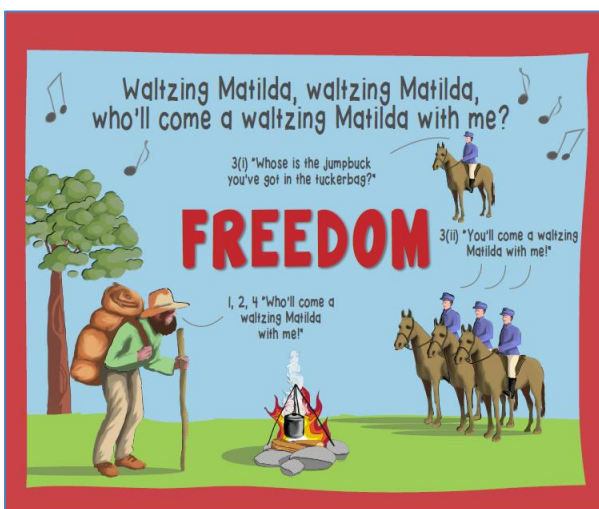
Question. Are there many occupations today that still require large amounts of manual labour ?

Answer. Shearing. Although now done with machine-shears is still very hard work.

Farriery: The shoeing of horses has changed little over the centuries.

Building: many jobs in construction require heavy labour at times.

Freedom.



Question. Name some of the conflicts between the Government and the people that happened in the colonial era.

Answer. (i) The Vinegar Hill uprising/Castle Hill Rebellion. Sydney. 1804.

(ii) The Rum Rebellion, (Military). Sydney. 1808.

(iii) The Eureka Stockade. 1854. Ballarat, Victoria.

These events often led to changes in the way that the Colony was governed, and

ultimately took it down a pathway that would lead towards Democracy.

Question. Do we see this type of behaviour between the people and the Government today ? If so, why not.

Answer. No. Differences and disputes these days are normally handled by the legal system.

Responsibility.



Our soldiers remind us that we must stand by our convictions, and through self-discipline, take responsibility for our actions.

Question. Name some examples in history where people have stood by their convictions for the greater good.

Answer. (i) Bushrangers. Although sometimes controversial, would stand against injustice.

(ii) Shearer's Strike of 1891, Queensland. The Shearers demanded reasonable conditions while they worked.

(iii) Various protest movements.

Question. Give three examples where people come together as a nation to remember or celebrate events of national significance.

Answer. (i) Australia Day.

(ii) NAIDOC week.

(iii) Anzac Day.

Today.

Question. Name some people in our society today that give us an example to follow through their sense of service to the community.

Answer. Surf-lifesavers, Bushfire fighters, S.E.S., Meals on Wheels, and many other people who give their time to help other people.

Sports people show us how to play fair.

Celebrities remind us that we should develop our talents and abilities.

Question. How can we maintain these principles of Sustainability, Productivity, Freedom and Responsibility today ?

Answer. Sustainability: by not being wasteful and using fewer resources such as Power, fuel and paper.

Productivity. By not being lazy. As you grow, play gives way to work. Learn how to make things, grow things, and take care of other things such as pets and plants.

Freedom. By not being bossy. We all have a right to choose. Speak your mind but be prepared to explain what you have said.

Responsibility. By not being careless and thoughtless. Look at your actions and see how they affect others. Consider whether you would like it if somebody did that to you.