

Australia Day

5 minutes

Opening: Hop, song and break the flag

5 minutes

Game: Flag game

Have two teams, for which you will need two Australian flags made of felt. Divide each flag into ten pieces and give each piece a number, such as one for the flag pole, two for the Union Jack, three for the background square and four for the Southern Cross. As the Joeys call the correct number they run and collect the corresponding piece to put the flag together. Have a suitable picture of a flag nearby. When they think they know what it looks like, take it away.

OBJECTIVES: fun, awareness of country, coordination, cooperation, team work.

10 minutes

Story: *It's one world*

by G Hocking

(a great book to head a discussion on multicultural Australia and how many years ago Kylie's ancestors came to these shores)

or *The shadow on the hill* by Colin Thiele

or *Coorong captive* by Colin Thiele

5 minutes

Game: Gecko game

Joeys tuck one end of a length of paper towel into the back of their pants, or jeans, so they have a gecko's tail. Two Joeys who are IT have to capture the geckos by grabbing them by the tail. Geckos can escape by pulling hard enough to tear the paper towel. If a gecko loses all its tail it retires from the game to grow a new tail.

OBJECTIVES: fun, coordination, playing fair.

20 minutes

Activity: Australian States' flora and fauna

Talk about flora and fauna. Colour in the sheet provided.

OBJECTIVES: fun, colour, awareness of country.

5 minutes

Song: Australian national anthem

The words are given on a separate sheet.

5 minutes

Game: Wombats in holes

Joeys are divided into threes. Two join hands to form a hole and the third, the wombat, stands in the hollow made by the joined hands. There should be one extra wombat. On the word *go* all wombats change holes and the spare wombat tries to find a place. Next turn remove a threesome. After a few turns the holes become wombats.

OBJECTIVES: fun, coordination, cooperation, listening.

5 minutes

Closing: Hop, and lower the flag

Prayer

God made the sun,
And God made the tree,
God made the mountains,
And God made me.

I thank you, O God,
For the sun and the tree,
For making the mountains
And making me.
(by Leah Gale)

Thank you Lord.

Amen.

RESOURCES

You will need two flags made of pieces of felt, a book, paper towel, flora and fauna sheets, and song sheets.

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share:
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

(Peter Dodds McCormick
Version approved in 1984 as the Australian National Anthem)