

History (Foundation to Year 10)

The Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History is designed to develop students' capacities and attitudes to be active and informed citizens, to understand the forces that shape societies, and to use transferable concepts and skills associated with the process of historical inquiry.

How is the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History structured?

The Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History is organised in two interrelated strands:

- *Historical knowledge and understanding* – which focuses on personal, local and national history and the societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped world history from the time of the earliest human communities to the present day
- *Historical skills* – which focuses on skills used in the process of historical inquiry.

Both of these strands are integrated into the development of a teaching and learning program to promote students' understandings and use of historical inquiry.

The *Historical skills* strand is organised into five sub-strands:

- *Chronology, terms and concepts*
- *Historical questions and research*
- *Analysis and use of sources*
- *Perspectives and interpretations*
- *Explanation and communication.*

The general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities are explicitly included in the content descriptions and elaborations across the strands, as appropriate to the learning area.

What are inquiry questions?

Each year level from Foundation to Year 10 includes key inquiry questions that provide a framework for developing students' historical knowledge, understandings and skills. The questions highlight the central importance of investigation in the study of history and provide an opportunity to focus on key concepts such as continuity and change, significance and perspectives.

What are overviews and depth studies?

Over years 7 to 10, the *Historical knowledge and understanding* strand includes an overview of the historical period to be covered in each year. The overview content identifies important features of the historical period at the relevant year level and provides an expansive chronology that helps students understand broad patterns of historical change.

In addition to the overview, the *Historical knowledge and understanding* strand includes three depth studies for the historical period at each year level from Years 7 to 10. For each depth study, there are up to four electives that focus on a particular society, event, movement or development.

As part of a teaching and learning program, the depth study content selected at each year level may be integrated with the overview content. The overview provides students with an introduction to the historical period; it can make the links to and between the depth studies, and it can consolidate understanding through a review of the period.

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How is Australian history developed in the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History?

A key feature of the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History is the treatment of Australian history within regional and world history contexts. This allows students to better understand Australian experiences, including the past and present experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, their identities and the continuing value of their cultures; Australia's changing place and role in the world, and its distinctive position in the Asia-Pacific Region.

What international references have been drawn upon in developing the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History?

The process of developing the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: History has included a review of history curriculum documents nationally and internationally, including the United Kingdom, Finland, Ireland, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong, and takes account of the latest research into history teaching. It presents the nation's history within regional and world history contexts, rather than limiting the presentation of regional and world history to only the national perspective. This is partly achieved through the use of overviews and comparative examples.

The strand *Historical knowledge and understanding* includes a wider range of concepts for making meaning of the past than are commonly found in most international history curricula. These concepts are drawn from the latest research in the fields of historical thinking and history teaching.

For more information please go to:

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/History/Rationale.