



Democracy in Action Poster Series

Learning intention

This activity encourages students to explore the basics of their active participation in Australian democracy through a detailed examination of an illustration by artist Jess Harwood. In doing so, students will be able to consider what 'people power' looks like across the three levels of government and within their local communities.

Activity overview

Students will have the opportunity to look closely at the artwork, to share what they notice and identify elements they connect with.

Materials

- *Democracy in action* poster (either a physical copy or a digital display)
- Post-it notes in two different colours
- Black marker.

Activity outline

- 1 Invite the class as a whole to look closely at the poster for up to a minute of quiet slow looking time. (Note: Slow looking is a practice used to encourage active and thoughtful observation rather than passively skimming over an object, artwork or scene.)
- 2 Encourage students to share five things they notice in the poster with the person next to them.
- 3 Give students another 30 seconds of slow looking time to see what additional details they can identify in the illustration.
- 4 Invite students to share aspects of the poster which stand out for them. List one idea per post-it note and stick these around the edges of the artwork.
- 5 Drawing on the post-it note responses, invite students to make connections between themselves, their local communities, information they hear on the news, their personal experiences, the three levels of government hexagons and/or their pre-existing knowledge. Add their responses (on post-it notes of a different colour) next to the original responses.
- 6 Encourage students to consider the idea of 'democracy in action.' How are the actions depicted in the poster relevant to them?

Extension activity: Zoom out

Invite students to create a drawing of their own to add to the illustration.

Encourage them to consider:

What do they feel is missing from the illustration?

What would they like to add to better reflect their communities?

How do they participate in our democracy?

MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY



OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



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