



Democracy! Picture Book

Learning intention

This activity invites students to take a deeper look at the basics of democracy through an engaging non-fiction picture book, *Democracy!: A Positive Primer on People Power* by author and illustrator Philip Bunting.

The book is divided into two parts: the first covers the basics of democracy, the second examples of active participation for young people. This will help students develop their understanding of the general principles of democracy and start to consider how it affects them, as well as the changes they might like to make.

This is a book you can keep coming back to throughout the unit of work to support students' learning.

Activity overview

Students will explore the basic principles of democracy and their application to everyday life. They will consider issues they are passionate about and positive changes they would like to make in their community, or on a larger scale.

Materials

- *Democracy!* picture book
- A4/A5 plain paper
- Lead pencils.

MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY



OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Democracy in a box was developed by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House with the support of Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC

Activity outline

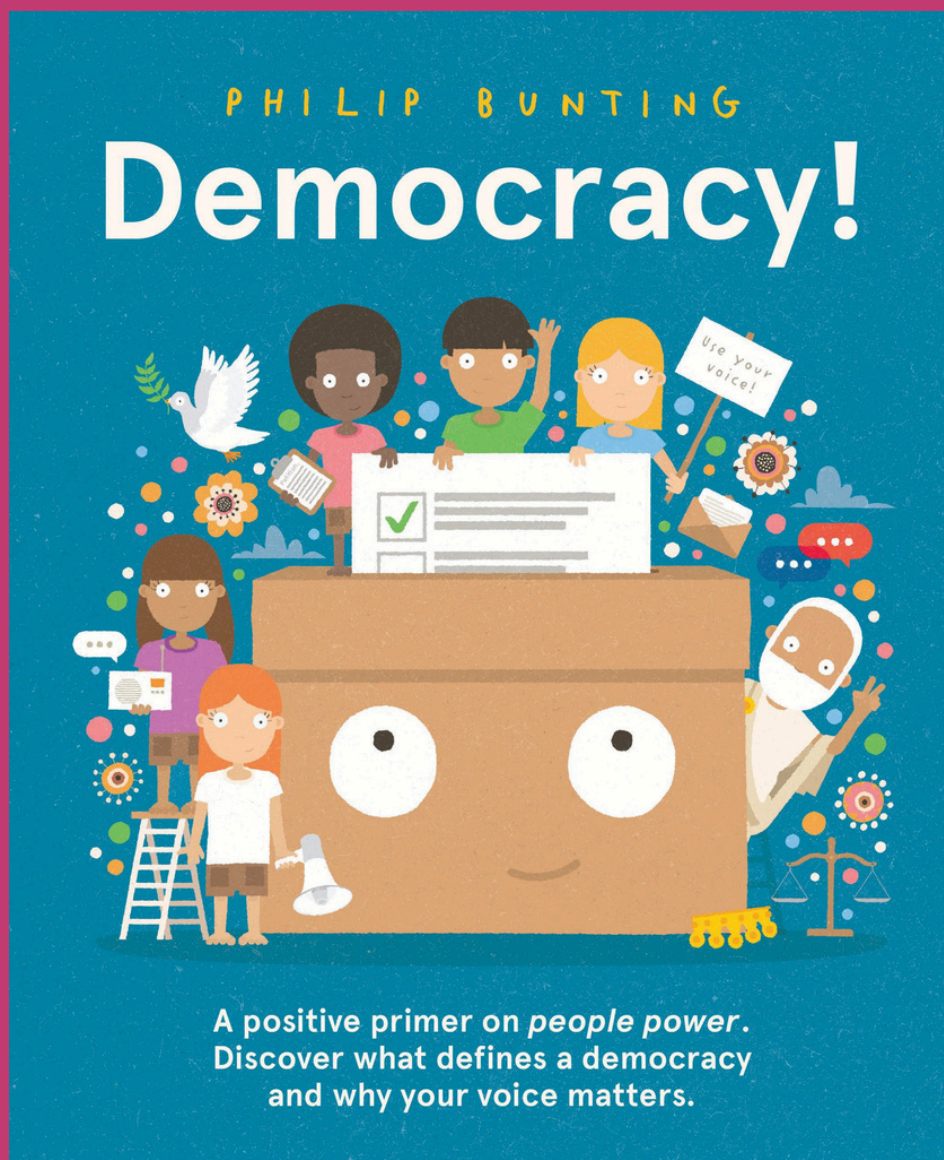
- 1 Read the introduction to *Democracy!* with students.
- 2 Invite them to list any questions they have about democracy. Record these on the board. Not all the responses will be answered in the book, but it is a great springboard.
- 3 As a whole class, skim and scan *Democracy!*, stopping at sections which link to students' questions.
- 4 If students are not yet ready to share their own questions, here are some connections within the book:
 - What are some different forms of government besides democracy?
 - Why is it important for people to participate in our democracy?
 - What are the benefits and challenges of democracy?
 - How is democracy relevant to you?
- 5 Show students the double page spread in the middle of the book that features young people actively using their voices to participate in Democracy.
- 6 Invite them to draw a picture of themselves and create a sign, a t-shirt, a badge, a hat or a banner on a topic or issue they are passionate about.
- 7 Encourage students to share their illustrations with the group.

Extension activity

Create your own *Democracy!* book. As you move through the activities in this resource, invite students to create their own non-fiction book or design one as a whole class.



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Democracy! © Phillip Bunting 2023, published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing.