

Sikh and Indian Australians

TEACHER RESOURCE 2 - MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA : SOURCE ANALYSIS

This could be used as a formative or summative assessment to review skills covered in this resource.

Source 1: Journalist's comments in February 2011

I have white skin and an English name, but beneath my Anglo exterior is someone with a far deeper understanding and appreciation of other cultures, religions and languages than that of my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Growing up at the peak of Australia's Asian migration boom, one-third of my school year was of Chinese descent. Many of my closest friends spoke Cantonese in the playground and brought thermos flasks full of congee for lunch. Their parents taught me the ingredients of my favourite Chinese dishes. They gave me red pockets at Lunar New Year and encouraged me to adopt customs, such as taking off my shoes in the house. I was spurred on to aim higher in my education by my Chinese friends' work ethic and their culture of high achievement.

Years of association with Chinese-Australians changed my attitudes, etiquette and beliefs to the extent that I took an Asian studies major at university to delve deeper. When I travelled to Japan for the first time, a shop assistant thought I couldn't possibly be Australian, because I was "too polite". It was, of course, because I understood their courtesy system...

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-opinion/everyday-australians-make-multiculturalism-work-20110217-1axoj.html>

Source 2: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Australia - Top 10 countries of birth - 30 June 2015 (a)(b)(c)

| COUNTRIES OF BIRTH | PERSONS No. | % OF AUSTRALIAN POPULATION |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| United Kingdom and Ireland | 1 207 000 | 5.1 |
| New Zealand | 611 400 | 2.6 |
| China | 481 800 | 2.0 |
| India | 432 700 | 1.8 |
| Philippines | 236 400 | 1.0 |
| Vietnam | 230 200 | 1.0 |
| Italy | 198 200 | 0.8 |
| South Africa | 178 700 | 0.8 |
| Malaysia | 156 500 | 0.7 |
| Germany | 125 900 | 0.5 |

(a) Estimates are preliminary -.

(b) Top 10 countries of birth excluding Australia.

(c) All population figures presented in this table are rounded. Estimates of the proportion of the Australian population are based on unrounded numbers.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/3412.oMedia%20Release12014->

You could also add a cartoon to this source analysis such as

“Multiculturalism takes effect” at:

<https://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/websites-mini/immigration-timeline/1980s/>

Or download the PDF from the National Museum of Australia “Laughing with knives, exploring political cartoons” which offers a range of cartoons mainly on refugees (and ideas for teaching using political cartoons).

(Alternatively, you could choose another cartoon on the topic to suit your class.)

Questions used should be linked to Year 6 HASS skills. Some sample questions are provided below. (With points that could be included in brackets)

- 1. Explain the usefulness of sources 1 and 2 in helping you to understand multicultural Australia.** (Source 1 includes personal information but it is very limited and not really using sufficient evidence of “other cultures” and “religions and languages”. Source 2 statistics are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which is reliable but (a) below the table notes that the estimates are preliminary. Also only shows 10 countries of birth.)
- 2. Explain the point of view in Source 1.** (From personal experience the author suggests her generation have lived with and are more understanding of people from other cultures living in Australia. It is supportive of the success of the policy of multiculturalism).
- 3. Create a graph from Source 2 and describe what the graph shows and problems in using only this information.** (Range of countries both Asian and European intake, still high intake from the UK but only 10 countries do not show the extent of ethnic diversity of Australia in 2015.)
- 4. What information can you learn from these two sources. What are the limitations of these sources?**
(Source 1 Personal comments about the author’s better understanding of Asian culture than previous generations, but one person’s perspective only and mainly focuses on Chinese Australians. Source 2 Up to date shows 6.5% of all immigrants to Australia in 2015 were from Asian countries, 5.1% were from the UK while 4.7% were from New Zealand and continental Europe. The main limitation of both sources is that they are too narrow - Source 1 is from an individual journalist. Source 2 only shows the estimated percentage of the top 10 countries of birth for one year.)