



IF I WAS PRIME MINISTER

By Beck & Robyn Feiner

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE PRIME MINISTER?

The Prime Minister's job is to make our country as good as it can be. But every Prime Minister Australia has ever had has been a grown-up!

What if the grown-ups weren't in charge? What would kids do if they ran the country?

We could have submarines to scoop garbage out of the sea ... or teach koalas how to do karate ... and hang giant rainbows in the sky to make everyone happy.

Recommended Age 4+

Australian Curriculum

History

ACHHS020, ACHHS036, ACHHS052

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beck Feiner is an art director, graphic designer and illustrator. Her first book, *Aussie Legends Alphabet*, was released in 2017. Her second book, *If I Was Prime Minister*, created with her husband Robin, will be released in 2018. Beck lives in Sydney with her family.

Australian Curriculum

History

- History / Foundation Year / Historical Skills / Perspectives and interpretations Explore a point of view. ACHHS020
- History / Year 1 / Historical Skills / Perspectives and interpretations Explore a point of view. ACHHS036
- History / Year 2 / Historical Skills / Perspectives and interpretations Explore a point of view. ACHHS052

English

- English / Foundation Year / Literacy / Interacting with others Use interaction skills including listening while others speak, using appropriate voice levels, articulation and body language, gestures and eye contact. ACELY1784
- English / Year 1 / Language / Language for interaction Understand that there are different ways of asking for information, making offers and giving commands. ACELA1446
- English / Year 1 / Literacy / Interacting with others Engage in conversations and discussions, using active listening behaviours, showing interest, and contributing ideas, information and questions. ACELY1656
- English / Year 1 / Literacy / Creating texts Create short ... informative texts that show emerging use of appropriate text structure, sentence-level grammar, word choice, spelling, punctuation and appropriate multimodal elements, for example illustrations and diagrams. ACELY1661
- English / Year 2 / Language / Text structure and organisation Understand that different types of texts have identifiable text structures and language features that help the text serve its purpose. ACELA1463
- English / Year 2 / Literacy / Interacting with others Listen for specific purposes and information, including instructions, and extend students' own and others' ideas in discussions. ACELY1666
- English / Year 2 / Literacy / Creating texts Create short... informative...texts using growing knowledge of text structures and language features for familiar and some less familiar audiences, selecting print and multimodal elements appropriate to the audience and purpose. ACELY1671

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is the leader of the Australian Government and the leader of the nation. By convention, the Prime Minister is a member of the House of Representatives who leads the parliamentary party, or coalition of parties, with the support of the majority of members in the House.

Choosing the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is chosen by a vote of the members of the government. The Prime Minister can keep their job as long as they are a member of parliament and retain the support of the government. Australia has no maximum period of service for a Prime Minister, unlike countries such as the United States, where the President can only serve for two four-year terms.

Role

The Prime Minister is the most powerful person in Parliament. They have many tasks, including:

- chairing meetings in which the government discusses policies and examines bills (proposed laws)
- selecting members of the government to be ministers
- leading Cabinet (Prime Minister and ministers) in deciding government policy
- acting as the chief government spokesperson
- representing the Australian Government overseas
- advising the Governor-General about important issues such as the appointment of ambassadors and heads of government departments
- advising the Governor-General about constitutional matters
- deciding when to call a federal election and leading the government in the election.

Questions

- How is the Prime Minister of Australia chosen?
- How many prime ministers have there been in Australia?
- Where does the prime minister live?
- Who is the current prime minister of Australia?



Activity 1: Ruler for A Day (45 min)

Divide students into groups of four to six and provide each group with large sheets of paper and markers.

To introduce the concept of absolute power, the groups are to imagine that, for a day, they have the power to rule the other students in the class.

Discuss as a class:

What are all the things you like and dislike doing?

Now you have total power to make your classmates do as you tell them, what tasks would you make them do?

What rules of behaviour must your classmates obey?

Rights can protect people. What rights do you want (a) for yourselves, as rulers; (b) for the others?

Each group lists their answers to the above questions on the sheet of paper under the following headings: 'Tasks' and 'Rules of behaviour'.

Collect the sheets and redistribute each to a different group.

Have the groups imagine they are subject to the rules of behaviour and have to undertake the tasks on the sheet they have been given.

Questions for the class to discuss:

- What do you think would be the consequences of these rules?
- How do you feel about having to do these tasks?
- Discuss the rights of the rulers and those ruled.

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Questions

Australia has no maximum period of service for a Prime Minister, unlike countries such as the United States, where the President can only serve for two four-year terms.

- Which Australian prime minister served the longest term?
- Which prime minister served the shortest term?
- Who was the only female prime minister in Australia?



My name is Evie.
If I was Prime Minister, I'd make
sure half of our Prime Ministers
were girls. That would be much
more fair.

Activity 2: Who rules elsewhere? (45 min)

Elicit students' prior knowledge of rulers using a concept map. List names or titles of different rulers and decision-making places today. Group these according to the way decisions are made.

Students divide into groups to role-play decision-making in different situations.

Discuss:

- How are decisions made in the family, in sports teams, in friendship groups, in clubs?
- How many people are involved?
- Is it fair/unfair?
- What do you think of the way decisions are made in different situations?
- Are there better ways to make decisions?

Extension Questions

1. Why do we need rules?

Students identify what rules have changed for them during their time at school and why. This could be recorded in a timeline displayed along a wall.

2. Discuss with students what is a rule and what is a law?

If I Was Prime Minister

H P Q
 W M B W Q S E N Z
 V L G E S R C T K C D G Z
 M W S R E B M E M O M S N Q B W G
 S O C I E T Y D H R J M O A E Y B K C
 U E V K C L E U V E T D F M D T U B P P A
 K X K Y P S G Q T W M L P Y O E M Q B E X
 U M A T F N X G S U R Y O F A K N E H E O K S
 G R I O Z R P I E T A T S C O S R W R R S L X
 U C I G T B Y N A L N V L B R R C S V E F I N H G
 D X L E W L M R F G F K G I G T F T C N O E L A H C
 S Y T L H N K I F K Q S I T Q Y T W Y S N D T L T H
 W H R D X U M O N A R C H U A U F Q Q U R E A M H D S
 R M C K Z Y B X E Z F K H D F B T L T Z E S N T G L M
 O N O I T A N I M I R C S I D C I N P X H H S E N
 T N E M N R E V O G Y O F K Z A D T O L L A B U I S
 H L L B Y E B O V V M T O W G X T A S B S Q G X S
 U J H T V M K W O E E G Y K T S I C N O Q M H
 E R U L E Q V Z N T T T A E L E C T I O N Q K
 V C F E X J F A Y F O T X A Z P U A N C J
 W M G B Z L N I D Z I V W A L N D W O O D
 X Z K G E R K X P O W E R E Q B U F A
 A B S T H V T N E M A I L R A P D
 Q M I R Z K L K P M I K I
 D C I L B U P V S
 X A I

total power, tasks, rule, obey, rights, law, democracy, election, government, parliament, monarch, vote, rights, fair, minister, passionate, constitution, vote, senate, consequence, freedom, member, discrimination, equality, public, society, ballot, commonwealth, consensus, lobby, state.

Australian Prime Ministers roll call

Prime ministers can have odd first names like Bob or Billy. Here are seven past prime ministers - can you link their first names with their surnames?

John	Gillard
Billy	Turnbull
Julia	Whitlam
Malcolm	Barton
Gough	Hughes
Sir Edmund	Howard

WOW!

What a lot of brilliant ideas.

Australia's a really great country,
but sad? There are plenty of ways
to make it even better.

What are you passionate about?
What's your vision?



What are you passionate about? What is your dream?



What would you do if **YOU** were Prime Minister?

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