JCPML TREASURE BOX LESSON PLAN (Upper Primary) – Section 6: Discovering democracy

Using the JCPML Website

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library's website includes thousands of photographs, documents, recorded interviews and many other resources – you can use it to discover more about John Curtin and Australia's role in World War II.

Activity 1

Develop a class collage or mural that shows what it meant to be a true patriot of Australia on the homefront during World War II. Use the following websites to find some interesting pictures.

a) http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/index.html

b) http://john.curtin.edu.au/manofpeace/index.html

c) http://john.curtin.edu.au/shapingthenation/index.htm

Activity 2

How did people on the Australian homefront show their patriotism by supporting the war effort?

a) http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/index.html

b) http://john.curtin.edu.au/manofpeace/index.html

c) http://john.curtin.edu.au/shapingthenation/index.htm

d) http://john.curtin.edu.au/legacyex/index.html

'New Clothes from Old' - Commonwealth Rationing Commission booklet
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http://espace.library.curtin.edu.au:80/R?func=dbin-jump-full&local_base=era01jcpml&object_id=90225

Examples of support for the war effort include:

- Taking on the role of an ARP warden

- Women joining services including the WAAAFs, WRANS and AWLA, volunteering in canteens and doing men's work (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/working/index.html)

- Recycling paper, rubber, aluminium etc. (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/school/index.html for information about children and recycling and http://john.curtin.edu.au/shapingthenation/htm/theme4b.htm for information about recycling)

- Supporting the austerity campaign (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/mend/index.html and http://john.curtin.edu.au/legacyex/economy.html)

- Supporting the austerity, liberty and victory loans (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/shapingthenation/htm/theme4_2.htm and http://john.curtin.edu.au/legacyex/economy.html)

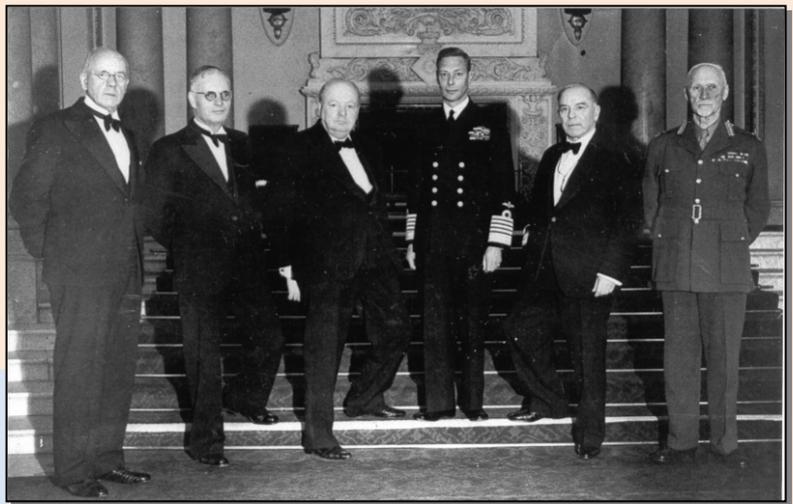- Growing vegetables in the back yard (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/healthy/index.html)

Activity 3

Has our sense of patriotism changed over time? If so, how? How have events such as World War II affected the way Australians view their links with Britain? Does patriotism increase in times of crisis or celebration? The following activities will help you to understand the nature of the British Commonwealth (formerly the British Empire) and Australia's involvement in it.

a) What does the term *British Commonwealth* mean? (For the origins of the Commonwealth and a map of present day members see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Commonwealth)

b) Who is the current head of the Commonwealth?

c) Who was head of the Commonwealth during World War II?

d) Australia is a *constitutional monarchy*. What does this mean? (see *Key Terms* below)

e) When war broke out in Europe in 1939 what did Australia do? (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/cottesloe/index.html)

f) Why did John Curtin go to Britain in 1944? (read the Digital Treasure Box Section 3 document *Trip Abroad & Documents 11.5-11.9.pdf* at http://john.curtin.edu.au/education/treasureboxdigital6.html to understand the purpose of Curtin's trip and the Imperial Conference)

g) How did World War II change Australians' views about their links to Britain? (see http://john.curtin.edu.au/shapingthenation/htm/theme4.htm)

King George entertains Dominion leaders at Buckingham Palace, 1944. Left to right: Peter Fraser (New Zealand), John Curtin, Winston Churchill, King George VI, William Mackenzie King (Canada), Jan Smuts (South Africa)

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http://espace.library.curtin.edu.au:80/R?func=dbin-jump-full&local_base=era01jcpml&object_id=79394

Prime Minister John Curtin and General Douglas MacArthur, Canberra, 1942

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http://espace.library.curtin.edu.au:80/R?func=dbin-jump-full&local_base=era01jcpml&object_id=85049

Key Terms

- *Constitution*: a constitution is a set of rules by which a country is governed. Australia's constitution was introduced in 1901 at Federation. It is a written constitution like that of the United States.

- *Monarchy*: a form of government in which the ruler holds power because he/she has inherited the power from his/her family. The ruler is not elected.

- *Constitutional Monarchy*: Australia recognises Queen Elizabeth II as our Head of State (in World War II her father George VI was king) but she has no real power. Australia's written constitution places power in the hands of an elected Prime Minister. He/she and his/her party form the government. Australia is a monarchy and it has a constitution. This is a democratic form of government.