



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Investigations and source material



People and Places	
Investigation focus questions	Primary source material, data and biographies
1. How did distance and isolation affect Western Australians?	Students use internet and library research to explore Western Australia's isolation in the late 1800s, particularly the Western Australian Government website ¹ .
2. What happened in Western Australia in the late 1800s and what were the impacts on the colony?	1890–99 statistics for Western Australia's population and for exports (gold, timber and wool); two photos of Fremantle Harbour showing change from 1880s to 1900s.
3. What problems and challenges resulted from the Western Australian gold rush?	Storekeepers and butchers' letter, 1893; extract from Henry Lawson's comments on the 'curse' of gold, written Perth 1896; photo of mining settlement, 1894.
4. Who were some influential citizens in Western Australia in the late 1800s?	Biographies of four people participating in different ways in Western Australian society and politics in the late 1800s: Edith Cowan, Faiz Mohamed, John Kirwan and William Marmion.
5. Who was John Forrest and what were his contributions to Western Australia?	Biography of Sir John Forrest, first Premier of Western Australia.

Road to Federation	
Investigation focus questions	Primary source material and data
1. What issues led some Western Australians to oppose or doubt Federation?	Newspaper extracts from <i>The West Australian</i> , 1890s.
2. What concerns about Federation were important to the communities of Western Australia's goldfields?	Petition to the Queen from residents of the goldfields, seeking separation; 'A Federal Fairy Tale', satirical newspaper piece (both 1900).
3. What if Western Australia had decided not to join in Federation?	Sections from the Australian Constitution.
4. Should the people of Western Australia have had a say in the colony's decision about Federation?	Selections from Western Australian Parliamentary Debates, 1899.
5. How was Federation promoted, and what were the results of the Western Australian referendum?	Referendum promotional material and results; map of Western Australian electoral districts, 1900.

Celebrations and Futures	
Investigation focus questions	Primary source material and data
1. How was Federation celebrated in Perth?	Reports of Perth's Federation celebrations from <i>The West Australian</i> newspaper, 2 January 1901.
2. How did Western Australians outside Perth celebrate Federation?	Reports from <i>The West Australian</i> newspaper, 2 January 1901; Western Australian referendum results.
3. What was the significance of Federation for Western Australians?	<i>Union</i> , a poem written in honour of Federation, published in <i>The West Australian</i> newspaper, 2 January 1901.
4. How should Western Australians commemorate Federation now and into the future?	Students use understandings gained through previous investigations together with their own ideas and research.

¹ www.slwa.wa.gov.au/federation/fed/013_isol.html