

Year 6 Teacher Guide: Government House, Darwin

The Bill

Learning Area: Civics and Citizenship Stage of Schooling: Year 6

Topic: The role and responsibilities of the Administrator

Knowledge and Understanding:

Students will investigate the key institutions of Australia's democratic government, including state/territory and federal parliaments, and the responsibilities of electors and representatives (government and democracy). Students learn how state/territory and federal laws are made in a parliamentary system (law).

Achievement Standard:

By the end of Year 6, students explain the role and importance of people, institutions, and processes to Australia's democracy and legal system. They describe the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens and the obligations they may have as global citizens.

Students develop appropriate questions to frame an investigation about the society in which they live. They locate, collect and organise useful information from a range of different sources to answer these questions. They examine sources to determine their origin and purpose and describe different perspectives. They evaluate information to draw conclusions. When planning for action, they identify different points of view and solutions to an issue. They reflect on their learning to identify the ways they can participate as citizens in the school or elsewhere. They present ideas, findings, viewpoints and conclusions in a range of communication forms that incorporate source materials and civics and citizenship terms and concepts.

Inquiry Questions:

How are laws developed in Australia? Where do ideas for new laws can come from and do they become law?

Lesson: Passing the Bill

Lesson Inquiry:

Students will use the tour of Government House to find out my about the role of the Administrator in creating laws.

Learning Intention:

Students will -

Question: What are the responsibilities of the Administrator in the passing of Bills?

Research: What are some of the Bills that the Administrator has been involved with?

Analyse: What students consider to have been some of the most important laws that have been introduced recently?

Evaluate: What would life be like without a system to create and pass laws? Whether there are countries that create laws differently? What are the consequences?

Communicate: By comparing and contrasting their findings with others.

Supporting Materials:

Resource: Making a Law – NT Parliament, Passage of Bills NT Legislative Assembly.

https://parliament.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/379274/Making-a-Law.pdf

Suggested Activities:

Excursion Activity 1. The Administrator

School Activity 1. Create a Bill

School Activity 2. Sign the Bill

School Activity 3. Important Laws in Australia

School Activity 4. Comparing Systems of Law Creation

Suggested Sequence:

- Complete school activities 1-4.
- Complete excursion activity 1.

Excursion Activity 1. The Administrator.

The Administrator is the Queen's representative in the Northern Territory. One of their duties is to sign the Bills that have been approved. During your visit to Government House, find any objects that link Government House and the Queen. Sketch and label them below.

It is:	It is:
It is:	It is:
It is:	It is:

School Activity 1. Pass your own bill.

Before you start:

1. Discuss the Steps from:
'PASSAGE OF BILLS NORTHERN TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'.
https://parliament.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/379274/Making-a-Law.pdf
2. Watch: <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/passing-a-bill/10533798> (3:28 mins)
3. Watch for more detail: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhYpkVclXbA> (10.47 mins)
4. Watch a news report about passing a real bill: 'Medivac bill to pass Senate': 2019 (2.01 mins)
<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/national/medivac-bill-to-pass-senate/video/c2796d1dc5611a69fa78c9f9ec4556aa>
5. Use the sequence on the next page to create and pass a Bill about a school matter.

School Activity 2. Create a Bill

Step 1. Minister introduces Bill into Legislative Assembly with a human rights compatibility statement and explanatory memorandum.

- a. Nominate students as the NT ministers:
https://parliament.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/379276/Parliament-in-the-Northern-Territory.pdf
- b. Find out what a compatibility statement is:
<https://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Human-rights-scrutiny/Pages/Statements-of-Compatibility.aspx>
- c. Find out what an explanatory memorandum looks like:
<https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/LegislationPortal/Bills/By-Session>
- d. A group of students write the proposed Bill, based upon the documents viewed, or use the template provided.

Step 2. If the first reading is passed, the Minister moves first reading and gives a speech explaining the Bill.

- e. Nominate the Minister to give a speech about why the Bill should be passed.

Step 3. If the Bill is referred, the Committee calls for public submissions on the Bill and, if needed, holds public hearings at the next Assembly sittings. This allows anyone to put their views about the Bill on the Assembly's record and Members to consider those views.

- f. Find out about who is on the Committee: <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees>
- g. Create a committee.
- h. Hold a public (class) meeting so their views can be recorded.

Step 4. The Assembly debates the second reading, consideration in detail, and third reading of the Bill and the Bill is passed by the Assembly to become a proposed law.

- i. Set up a debate with two sides of the class providing their opinions.
- j. Reread the final Bill.

Step 5. Assent by Administrator and the proposed law becomes an Act. If 30 days elapses or if it is urgent, then the Bill can go from Step 1 to Step 5.

- k. Find out about the Administrator and the role they play in passing the Bill.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmgXOaFJufo&t=16s>

- l. Nominate the student to be the Administrator the sign that the Bill is now law.
- m. The class can witness the 'Administrator' sign the new Bill.

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

**ABILL
for
AN ACT**

Act No.

Date:

An ACT

Wording of Act:

[*Commenced: (date)*]
[*Second reading: (date)*]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Division 1 – General matters

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as:

2. Commencement

This Act comes into operation on the date fixed by the Administrator by notice in the *Gazette*.

3. Objects

The objects of this Act are –

(a) to:

(b) to:

4. Principles

The following Human Rights Compatibility Statement must be taken into account in the administration of this Act:

(a)

(b)

Division 2 – Interpretation matters

6. Interpretation

In this Act, the words mean –

School Activity 3. The Administrator Signs the Bill.

Wording for when the Administrator signs the Bill:

Chief Minister: This Bill is ready for presentation to you for Royal Assent.

I understand that a copy of the Bill has been provided to you and advise you that the Bill has been passed by both houses of the Parliament.

In my opinion, there are no amendments to the Bill that you should recommend.

I am also of the opinion that you should not reserve the Bill for her Majesty's pleasure to be made known.

Administrator: Chief Minister, I have read the Act and acknowledge that it has been passed by both houses of Parliament.

I also acknowledge the certification by the Attorney General. I assent to this Act.

The Administrator signs the Act.

Administrator: The Act now passes into Australian Law.

Chief Minister, I suggest that we now adjourn and reassemble for the Executive Council to consider the date for the commencement of the Act. Thank you.

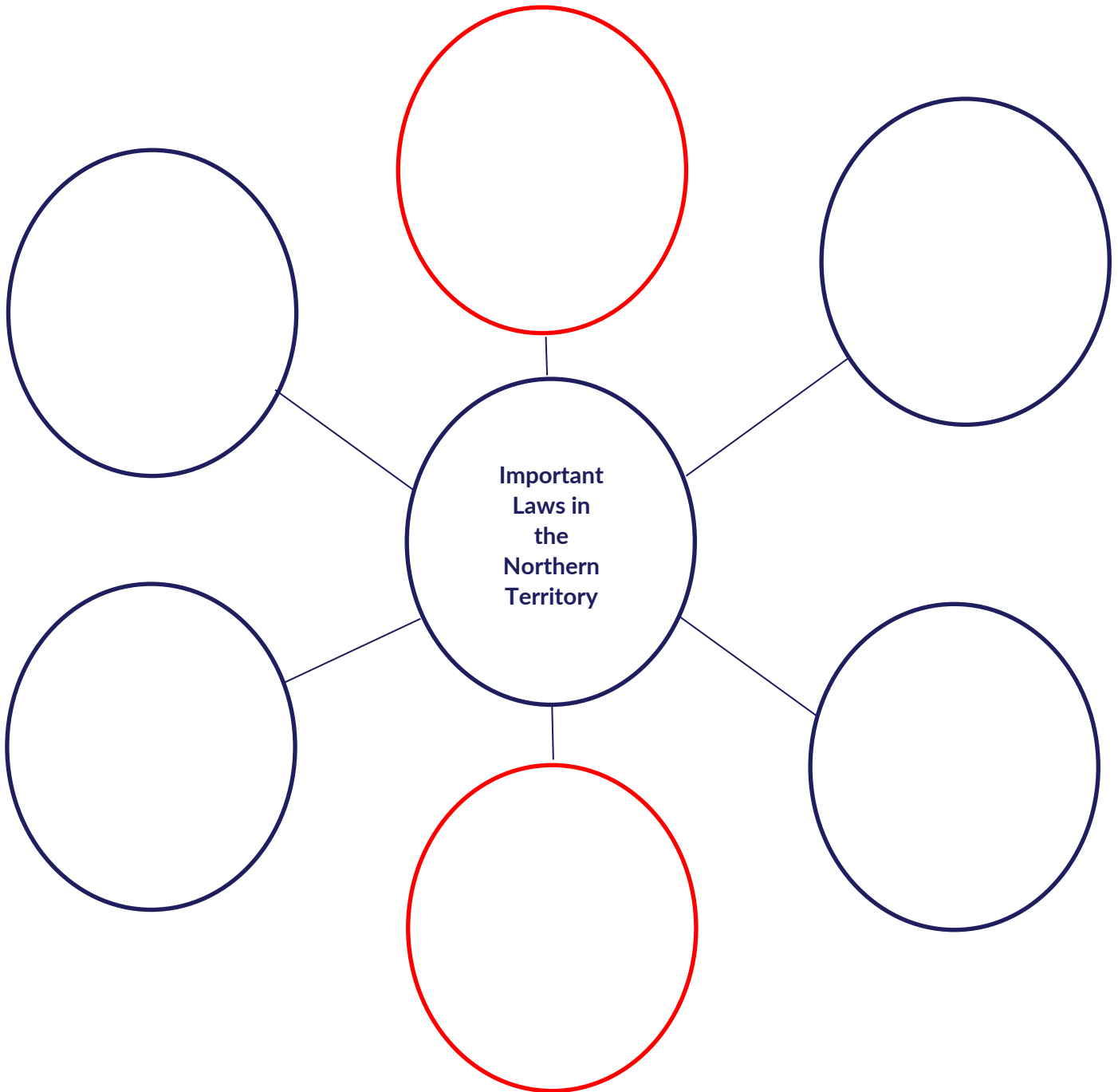
The Administrator now shakes hands and gives the Chief Minister a copy of the new Act.

School Activity 4. Important Laws in the Northern Territory.

Research to find six important laws that have been created in the Northern Territory.

Select what you consider to be the top two most important laws.

Included your reasons why you have chosen them.



School Activity 5. Comparing Systems of Law Creation

Choose one country to investigate how they make laws, compared to Australia.

Complete the table below.

Australia	Country:
There is a democratic process to introduce and pass the Bill into Parliament.	
There is a human rights compatibility statement.	
There are public submissions on the Bill and, if needed, holds public hearings to allow anyone to put their views about the Bill on the Assembly's record and Members to consider those views.	
There is debate about the Bill.	
There are three readings of the Bill before being passed by the Assembly to become a proposed law.	
The Assent is given by the Administrator and the proposed law becomes an Act.	
Examples of laws	