YEAR 6 HASS

# Federation

Explain why and how the colonies joined to form Australia

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**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 6

## One Nation

By the late 1800s, the six colonies each had their own government, laws, taxes and armies. Many people began to believe they would be stronger together.

People supported **Federation** for several reasons. A national army and navy could defend the whole continent. Removing taxes on goods moving between colonies would make trade easier. A single government could also build national services, such as a postal system.

After meetings, debates and votes called **referendums** , the colonies agreed to unite. On **1 January 1901** , the Commonwealth of Australia was born, and the colonies became states. Edmund Barton became Australia's first Prime Minister, and the rules for the new nation were set out in the **Australian Constitution** .

**Choose the best answer.**

1. When did Federation happen?
   ⓐ 1 January 1901 ⓑ 26 January 1788 ⓒ 25 April 1915
2. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?
   ⓐ Henry Parkes ⓑ Robert Menzies ⓒ Edmund Barton
3. What did the colonies become after Federation?
   ⓐ states ⓑ countries ⓒ towns
4. What is the Constitution?
   ⓐ the national anthem ⓑ the set of rules for how Australia is governed ⓒ a type of ship
5. What is a referendum?
   ⓐ a newspaper ⓑ a type of tax ⓒ a vote by the people on an important question

**Write your answer.**

6. Give two reasons people supported Federation.



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**Choose the best answer.**

1. a) 1 January 1901
2. c) Edmund Barton
3. a) states
4. b) the set of rules for how Australia is governed
5. c) a vote by the people on an important question

**Write your answer.**

6. Better defence with a national army, and easier trade without taxes between colonies.



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