

January 26/Australia Day Q&A

Let's unpack the answers to the most-asked questions from teachers surrounding January 26.

January 26. Australia Day. Survival Day. Invasion Day. A day with many names and lots of strong emotions. January 26 can be a difficult theme to navigate, especially in classrooms.

Here are the **five most common questions** from teachers – along with our most popular resources and toolkits to help you unpack them in your classroom.

1

What actually happened on January 26, 1788?

To understand the different perspectives of First Nations people about January 26, we first need to understand our shared history. [This free article](#) covers how Australia Day has evolved, and the differing perspectives on the day.

2

Why do some people think it's 'not a date to celebrate'?

Engage with First Nations perspectives through picture books, videos and articles with our new [Learn and Do](#) series. Under our Australia Day/January 26 topic, students consider different perspectives on celebrating on a date that commemorates the arrival of the British in 1788, and the start of colonisation, in age-appropriate and easy-to-grasp ways.

3

How do I teach about January 26 sensitively?

With our [Language and Terminology Toolkit](#), teachers can learn how to communicate with understanding and sensitivity in relation to First Nations histories, cultures and perspectives.

4

What happened leading up to January 26?

Explore an [interactive timeline](#) of this continent's history and discover how January 26 is a day of both pride and pain for many Australians. Our nation's story doesn't start on January 26, 1788, there's much more to the story.

5

Where do I start when teaching about January 26?

Discover meaningful ways to approach January 26 with respect and understanding. Our [Meaningful Action Toolkit](#) is filled with clear and practical ideas for action, such as how to consider a more inclusive approach to Australia Day.

Access our full library of resources and so much more at australianstogether.org.au

AUSTRALIANS
TOGETHER

*Please note: We use the terms January 26 and Australia Day interchangeably to reflect the varying ways this day is understood and observed. We acknowledge the historical truths of this day and the deep pain it holds for many First Nations people. We invite readers to engage with this conversation with empathy, respect and a willingness to listen and learn.