



Learner and Teacher Agency

## Concepts in History: Significance

### Concept of Significance

This is a relatively new concept, even for experienced teachers of History, so extra support materials have been gathered to assist teachers. The resources below are excellent.

- Centre of the Study of Historical Consciousness, "[Historical Significance](#)" in The Historical Thinking Project, Canada.
- Establish Historical Significance, Learning About Historical Significance QCA, 2007, "[What is Historical Significance?](#)" in The National Curriculum, UK (PowerPoint)
- Teaching Historical Significance at Key Stage 3, <https://www.keystagehistory.co.uk/wp-content/resources/HT-r4.pdf>, "What makes an historical event significant?" in Medieval Realms, UK, (PowerPoint)

### Group Work Activities

Questivities™: Significance

This learning task is designed to promote group discussion and encourage critical and creative thinking among students. It is based on a thinking model created by Carolyn Coil and originally entitled Questivities.

These days, Coil's model is called Encountering Creative Questions (ECQ).

1. List celebrations which are significant to you.
2. Choose one celebration from your list and explain why it is significant for you.
3. Compare and contrast Australia Day with an event that is significant in another country.
4. What would happen if celebrations were banned?
5. Would you rather celebrate Anzac Day or Remembrance Day?
6. How would you feel if Australia Day was abolished?
7. What makes something significant?
8. How does an event become significant for a whole nation?

Active Questions:



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- Make a list of questions that aboriginal people might ask about the significance of Australia Day.
- Make a list of questions that a pacifist might ask about the significance of Anzac Day

### **CONCEPT of SIGNIFICANCE Learning Task**

This is based on the work of Christine Counsell, University of Cambridge, and it works well with older students and adults.

1. Think of something remarkable that has happened in your lifetime.
2. What is something you remember that was crucial at some stage in your history?
3. What is something that resulted in consequences for the future in your life?
4. What is something in Australian History that resonates with Australians, something that people like to make comparisons with?
5. What is something that was revealed to you about the past?