Main Topic: Social & Political

Sub Topic: Leadership

Leadership is a common topic for students to discuss and research in schools. In Religious Education, History and English, students are often asked to research and write a report on a famous person or a leader. It is a topic that is perfect for integrating an Aboriginal perspective. Remember to focus on the qualities of leaders and what makes good or bad leaders in a given situation rather than making it a lesson in difference between leadership in Aboriginal societies and leadership in European societies. While there are some differences between the notions of leadership in each, it is because of the situation not because of culture.

There is an increasing number of books, websites, films and songs dedicated to describing the life and work of leaders.

- To put leadership into perspective, ask students to identify leaders in the following:
  - world
  - country
  - community
  - school
  - family

- Identify and discuss what makes them leaders.

- Discuss what happens when there is not a good leader

- Create a collage (using a big outline map of Australia) by placing faces of Australia’s leaders both past and present. Make sure there are some Aboriginal men & women included.

- Invite a leader from the local Aboriginal community into the classroom to discuss what it is to be a leader in the Aboriginal community. Students prepare questions for the Guest Presenter based on their discussions on the attributes of a leader. Utilise the GECKOS Program to support this activity.

- Research and write a biography or make a poster of an Australian leader. Remember to include local people and others in WA. There are DVDs, videos, books, websites featuring the following:
  - Vincent Lingiari
  - Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)
  - Faith Bandler
  - Charlie Perkins
  - Yagan
  - Lowitja O’Donoghue
  - Dr Pat O’Shane
  - Eddie Mabo
  - Shirley Smith (Mum Shirl)
  - Pat Dodson
  - Mandaway Yunupingu
  - David Uniapon
  - Mark Bin Bakar / Mary G
  - Michael Long
  - Ken Colbung
Students can use the information gathered to design a new Australian $500 note, illustrating with graphics to represent the qualities and achievements of the person featured. Model on the $50 note featuring David Unaipon.

Using the information gathered, make an Australian leaders board game.

Using the information gathered, complete an interview question and answer sheet as if they are the leader being interviewed.

Jigsaw classroom – Compare 4 or 5 people considered to be leaders in the community. Ask students to make a presentation for the class highlighting the importance of these people to their community.

Make a timeline placing leaders researched.

Make an acrostic using the letters LEADERSHIP.

Research, compare and contrast Aboriginal and European notions of leadership. How are the notions the same; how are they different?

- Europeans – Sovereign Ruler (one leader)
- Aboriginals – Elders (many leaders)

**Resources:**

- *Katta Djinoong Gallery* WA Museum
- *Australian Story: Good morning Mr Sarra (Chris Sarra)*. (DVD) ABC, 2004. 30min
- *Australian Story: Cape Crusade (Noel Pearson)*. (DVD) ABC, 2002. 30min
- Cunnungham,J. *Lowitja*. Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002