



Rules and Laws

Teacher Notes

Overview

The “*Rules and Laws*” program is designed specifically for Year 4 students. Its aim is to enhance the understanding of rules and laws and how these relate to everyday situations.

Activities will include:

- Discussing the differences between rules and laws and why we have them.
- Rules and laws guessing game providing the consequences for breaking them.
- Rules and laws picture analysis and bingo reinforcing the need for rules and laws.
- Rules and laws Venn diagram to identify different and similar characteristics of rules and laws.

Objectives

Students will:

- Compare the difference between rules and laws
- Explain the need for rules and laws
- Relate rules and laws to everyday situations

Western Australian Curriculum links

WA Curriculum Learning Outcome	Statement of Learning
Year 4 Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)	
ACHASSK092	The differences between 'rules' and 'laws'
ACHASSK092	The importance and purpose of laws (e.g. to maintain social cohesion, to reflect society's values)

Curriculum links are taken from:

- [Western Australian Curriculum Humanities and Social Sciences](#)
- [Australian Curriculum](#)

Background information for teachers

Laws have been around for over 4000 years. Laws in ancient civilisations were strict, usually resulting in physical punishments or even death.

Rules and laws are designed to protect us. A rule is a way of behaving that is agreed to by people taking part in an activity or belonging to a group, e.g. a game, sport, contest or school. It is not legally binding but may have other consequences such as exclusion from the game, club or activity. Laws are binding rules. They are put in place by the Parliament and carry with them the power to enforce penalties for failure or refusal to obey them.












All Australian citizens over the age of 18 elect representatives for their area in both State and Federal Parliaments. The Members of Parliament make laws to solve a specific problem in the community. The suggestions for new laws come from organisations, government departments, community groups, businesses or lobby groups. Political parties often suggest new laws, especially after an election when they want to put their policy promises into being.









Changing the law is an important part of the work of Parliament. Members of Parliament debate changes in Parliament and vote on whether the changes will be put in place.

As members of community groups, clubs and schools we can influence the rules that they make.

Both rules and laws allow for us to be able to live together in ways that allow for us to enjoy our local community.

Useful teachers resources for Parliament, law and community

Website	Summary	Material type
Parliament of Australia	This website includes everything you could hope to learn about Australia's Federal Parliament. You can read Hansard documents, find education resources, and read about the two chambers. https://www.aph.gov.au/	  
Parliamentary Education Office	This website is designed for students and teachers to learn about Parliament. It includes facts sheets, videos, teacher resources and great pictures. http://www.peo.gov.au/	  
Parliament of Western Australia	This website is a comprehensive look at Western Australia's State Parliament. It includes facts sheets, Hansard, live broadcasts from the chambers and education resources. www.parliament.wa.gov.au	  
The Constitutional Centre	This section of our website outlines some of the basic elements of our system of democracy, how the Constitution works, voting procedures, and the workings of our State Parliament in Western Australia. https://www.constitutionalcentre.wa.gov.au/	 

Electoral Education Centre	<p>Experienced staff at the EEC offer a range of quality educational services for you and your students free of charge, which can be delivered in our specially designed facility or in your classroom with programs tailored to suit the needs of any age group.</p> <p>https://www.elections.wa.gov.au/EEC</p>	 
Political and Legal Educators Association of Western Australia	<p>PLEAWA is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation that exists to foster the development of Politics and Law and Civics and Citizenship as a subject both for its students and teachers.</p> <p>https://www.pleawa.org.au/</p>	 
Francis Burt Law Education Programme	<p>The Francis Burt Law Education Programme seeks to advance the Western Australian community's understanding of the law, legal principles and the court system.</p> <p>https://www.lawsocietywa.asn.au/</p>	 
Education Services Australia	<p>A national not-for-profit company owned by the state, territory and Australian Government education ministers.</p> <p>https://www.esa.edu.au/</p>	 
RAC Little Legends Club	<p>Helps kids learn all about bicycle, pedestrian and passenger safety. Aligned to the Western Australian curriculum.</p> <p>https://rac.com.au/little-legends/</p>	