

Listening to *Voices of Australia*

Activity sheet

Before listening

1. Have you, or any of your friends/ classmates travelled to another country?

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2. Have you, or any of your friends/ classmates, moved to Australia from another country? How did you feel when you arrived (eg. lonely, excited)?

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3. What does 'multiculturalism' mean to you?

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4. How has migration made a positive impact on Australian society?

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5. Have you ever encountered racism? Explain what happened and how it was dealt with (by you, your friends, the school, family, community or by the law).

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During listening

The *Racial Discrimination Act* is a landmark law that helps Australians to live free from racial discrimination.

Listen to the audio files of *Voices of Australia* speaking about life in Australia (available at: www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/voices) and consider some of the questions below.

Part 1 – Australia: our home

1. What does it mean to be 'Australian'?

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2. What does each of the characters consider the most important aspect of living in, and being Australian is? (identify each character's priorities)

Freedom to study, easy going lifestyle, the outdoors, our values, sacred places, spiritual connections, peace and stability.

- Flo Watson *Spiritual connections*
- Kathy Mills
- Steve Pratt
- Marat Sverdlov
- Razia Zahedi
- Thao Nguyen

Part 2 – Unexpected friendships

Each of the characters in this section has had an unexpected friendship since arriving in Australia. Listen to each of the people's stories and match the way in which they made new and unexpected friends.

1. Amareswar Galla	former war enemies (Serbia/Croatia)
2. Denis Asaf	sharing religious festivals/feasts
3. Dragana Danicic	going to church
4. Luke Gay	during university
5. Shahnaz Rind	political figure in a library (Gough Whitlam)

Part 3 – Racism: Not in my backyard

The *Racial Discrimination Act* makes racism and racial discrimination illegal. This means that it is against the law for people to treat others differently because of their race, colour, descent, national origin or ethnic origin. The stories in this section give examples of when racism does exist within society and shows how people have dealt with such situations.

Using the stories, complete the box below.

Action	How was the situation dealt with by each character?
Questions about nationality	
Being ignored by shopkeepers	
Denial of community existence in history lessons	

Part 4 – Breaking down barriers

There are many ways that we can build relationships and get to know other people in our community. For each of the following, write one sentence about how the people in this section have broken down barriers in their own community.

1. Barbeque	
2. Workplace	
3. Football	
4. Language	
5. Education	

Part 5 – From tolerance to respect

Listen to part five of the audio files and find out more information about Dean Widders and Thao Nguyen.

Dean Widders is a well-known professional rugby league player. Dean is also highly regarded for his work outside of rugby league, working with Aboriginal community groups.

What type of things does Dean do in order to overcome stereotypes and unspoken perceptions about Aboriginal people?

1.
2.
3.
4.

Thao Nguyen arrived in Australia in the 1970's from Vietnam. Recently she represented Australia as a youth representative at the
This meant that she was the first and the first to represent Australia.

After listening

1. Explain the difference between tolerance and respect.

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2. Make a list of people that you respect in your community and briefly explain why.

Person (eg. coach)	Why (eg. Because he/ she gives us equal time on the field)

3. How does each of the different characters (on the audio files) feel about their place in society? (eg. comfortable, afraid, happy, marginalised, accepted)

Character	Emotion	Character	Emotion

4. How do events like the destruction of the World Trade Centre in New York and the Bali bombings impact upon our society? Has it changed the way that some Muslim people are perceived in Australia (at school, in the media, in your community)?

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5. What similarities and differences, if any, are there between the stories of Indigenous Australians and those of migrants to the country?

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