

If I Was Prime Minister

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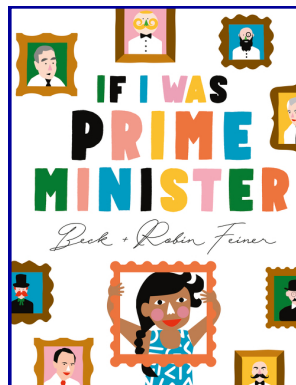
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WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE PRIME MINISTER?

The Prime Minister's job is to make our country as good as it can be. But every Prime Minister Australia has ever had has been a grown-up! What if the grown-ups weren't in charge? What would kids do if they ran the country? We could have submarines to scoop garbage out of the sea ... or teach koalas how to do karate ... and hang giant rainbows in the sky to make everyone happy. What would YOU do if you were Prime Minister?



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Leadership
- History
- Ideas

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- How is the Prime Minister of Australia chosen?
- How many prime ministers have there been in Australia?
- Where does the prime minister live?
- Who is the current prime minister of Australia?
- Australia has no maximum period of service for the Prime Minister, unlike countries such as the United States, where the President can only serve for two four-year terms.
- Which Australian prime minister served the longest term?
- Which prime minister served the shortest term?
- Who was the only female prime minister in Australia?

Activity: Who rules elsewhere?

Discuss:

- How are decisions made in the family, in sports teams, in friendship groups, in clubs?
- How many people are involved?
- Is it fair/unfair?
- What do you think of the way decisions are made in different situations?
- Are there better ways to make decisions?

Extension Questions:

- Why do we need rules?
- Have students identify what rules have changed for them during their time at school and why. This could be recorded in a timeline displayed along a wall. Discuss with the students what is a rule and what is a law?
- Complete the 'Ruler for a Day' Activity attached.
- Complete the 'Australian Prime Ministers roll call' sheet that is attached.
- Complete the 'What would you do if YOU were Prime Minister?' page that is attached.

Activity 1: Ruler for A Day (45 min)

Divide students into groups of four to six and provide each group with large sheets of paper and markers.

To introduce the concept of absolute power, the groups are to imagine that, for a day, they have the power to rule the other students in the class.

Discuss as a class:

What are all the things you like and dislike doing?

Now you have total power to make your classmates do as you tell them, what tasks would you make them do?

What rules of behaviour must your classmates obey?

Rights can protect people. What rights do you want (a) for yourselves, as rulers; (b) for the others?

Each group lists their answers to the above questions on the sheet of paper under the following headings: 'Tasks' and 'Rules of behaviour'.

Collect the sheets and redistribute each to a different group.

Have the groups imagine they are subject to the rules of behaviour and have to undertake the tasks on the sheet they have been given.

Questions for the class to discuss:

- What do you think would be the consequences of these rules?
- How do you feel about having to do these tasks?
- Discuss the rights of the rulers and those ruled.

Australian Prime Ministers roll call

Prime ministers can have odd first names like Bob or Billy. Here are seven past prime ministers - can you link their first names with their surnames?

John	Gillard
Billy	Turnbull
Julia	Whitlam
Malcolm	Barton
Gough	Hughes
Sir Edmund	Howard



What would you do if **YOU**
were
Prime Minister?