Using the JCPML Website

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library’s website includes thousands of photographs, documents, recorded interviews and many other resources – you can use it to discover more about John Curtin and Australia’s role in World War II.

Activity 1

Develop a class collage or mural that shows what it meant to be a true patriot of Australia on the homefront during World War II. Use the following websites to find some interesting pictures.


Activity 2

How did people on the Australian homefront show their patriotism by supporting the war effort?


Examples of support for the war effort include:

- Taking on the role of an ARP warden
- Women joining services including the WAAAFs, WRANS and AWLA, volunteering in canteens and doing men’s work (see [http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/working/index.html](http://john.curtin.edu.au/1940s/working/index.html))
Activity 3

Has our sense of patriotism changed over time? If so, how? How have events such as World War II affected the way Australians view their links with Britain? Does patriotism increase in times of crisis or celebration? The following activities will help you to understand the nature of the British Commonwealth (formerly the British Empire) and Australia’s involvement in it.

a) What does the term British Commonwealth mean? (For the origins of the Commonwealth and a map of present day members see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Commonwealth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Commonwealth))

b) Who is the current head of the Commonwealth?

c) Who was head of the Commonwealth during World War II?

d) Australia is a constitutional monarchy. What does this mean? (see Key Terms below)


Key Terms

- **Constitution**: a constitution is a set of rules by which a country is governed. Australia’s constitution was introduced in 1901 at Federation. It is a written constitution like that of the United States.

- **Monarchy**: a form of government in which the ruler holds power because he/she has inherited the power from his/her family. The ruler is not elected.

- **Constitutional Monarchy**: Australia recognises Queen Elizabeth II as our Head of State (in World War II her father George VI was king) but she has no real power. Australia’s written constitution places power in the hands of an elected Prime Minister. He/she and his/her party form the government. Australia is a monarchy and it has a constitution. This is a democratic form of government.