



Difference Differently

A free online Australian Curriculum resource supporting teachers and students learning about diversity

Selected Key Objectives of the Student Resource

- Understand the significance and complexity of prejudice, identity, citizenship, and belonging.
- Empathise with people and their stories, perspectives, beliefs, and worldviews.
- Engage, communicate with and respect a diverse range of people, even when faced with challenges arising from that diversity.
- Be critical viewers of the media.
- Understand how divergent beliefs develop and how to respond to them.

Selected Key Objectives of the Teacher Resource

- Acquire strategies for fostering positive and inclusive attitudes to belonging and identity amongst students hence addressing prejudice and exclusion.
- Appreciate how beliefs develop and the various ways of responding to divergent beliefs.
- Develop capacity for maintaining constructive relationships in the face of diversity.

Difference Differently supports the teaching of the Australian Curriculum and aims to improve ways in which schools educate young Australians about diversity and difference.

Developed by the Together for Humanity Foundation, it is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and will be available to schools in 2012.

The modular resource includes best practice online and classroom based learning activities, including videos with diverse Australians, contextual information, interactive activities and quizzes, class wikis and forums, and reflection tasks.

Working with Difference Differently, primary and secondary students and teachers should have a greater appreciation of how to negotiate the issues and challenges that arise from diversity.



Difference Differently at a glance

Primary modules:

Stream	English	History/Geography	Civics & Citizenship
Years 3/4	Stories about Difference Students view, analyse and create stories that focus on diversity, exploring concepts of inclusion and exclusion.	Our Communities Students explore diversity in local communities, including religious and cultural practices and celebrations, focusing on similarities and differences.	Getting to Know Others Students look at their own behaviours and attitudes towards other people, focusing on respecting diversity.
Years 5/6	Ways of Seeing Students focus on perspective and the sociocultural contexts that creators and audiences bring to texts.	One Country, Many Cultures Students focus on the changing cultural, linguistic and religious makeup of Australia, exploring the reasons for and consequences of this change.	My Values Students focus on developing awareness of values, their own and others'.

Secondary modules:

Stream	English	History	Geography	Civics & Citizenship
Years 7/8	Representations & Portrayals Students explore how cultural, linguistic, national, religious and gendered groups are portrayed in advertising, film, and other media, focusing on stereotypes.	Beliefs, Then and Now Students relate varying ideas, beliefs and worldviews from ancient civilizations to a modern context, exploring the history of world religions.	Mapping Diversity Using mapping, demographic data and personal stories, students focus on mobility and settlement, exploring why people live where they do. They focus on cultural diversity and locational disadvantage.	Differing Stories Students explore their own attitudes and behaviour in dealing with diversity in their lives, focusing particularly on racial and cultural discrimination.
Years 9/10	Media Madness Students analyse how the news media influences the agenda around diversity, developing their skills as critical viewers of the media.	Who can be Australian? Students use personal stories and historical material to explore Australian government policies on exclusion and inclusion, relating this to current debates around multiculturalism and immigration.	Going Global Students explore the commonalities that global interconnectedness creates as well the inequities that it highlights. They explore Australia's aid program and the development of global identities.	Defining Identities Students explore questions of allegiance, loyalty, belonging and identity in Australia, what these mean to them, and the diverse ways they are presented. They explore the multiple meanings of being 'Australian'.

Difference Differently offers a teacher resource that provides accredited online professional learning. The four modules explore the following content and are suitable for:

All school staff	Teaching staff	School leaders and teaching staff	Teaching staff
Reflecting on Diversity and Diversity Education School staff reflect on their attitudes toward diversity and their efforts in diversity education. They explore the rationale for diversity education in Australian schools.	Diversity Education in the Classroom Using current research, examples from Australian schools and the Difference Differently student resource, teachers explore learning strategies that can be used in the classroom to build students' diversity competence.	Whole-School Approaches to Diversity Education School leaders and teachers explore ways to manage and/or celebrate diversity through whole-school approaches. They survey current research and best practice Australian models.	Using Difference Differently with Students Teachers explore the Difference Differently student resource, its approach and rationale, its target audience, how to use it, and how it relates to the Australian Curriculum.

Difference Differently will be launched as a pilot program in early-2012, with the first full roll out to all Australian schools in mid-2012.

