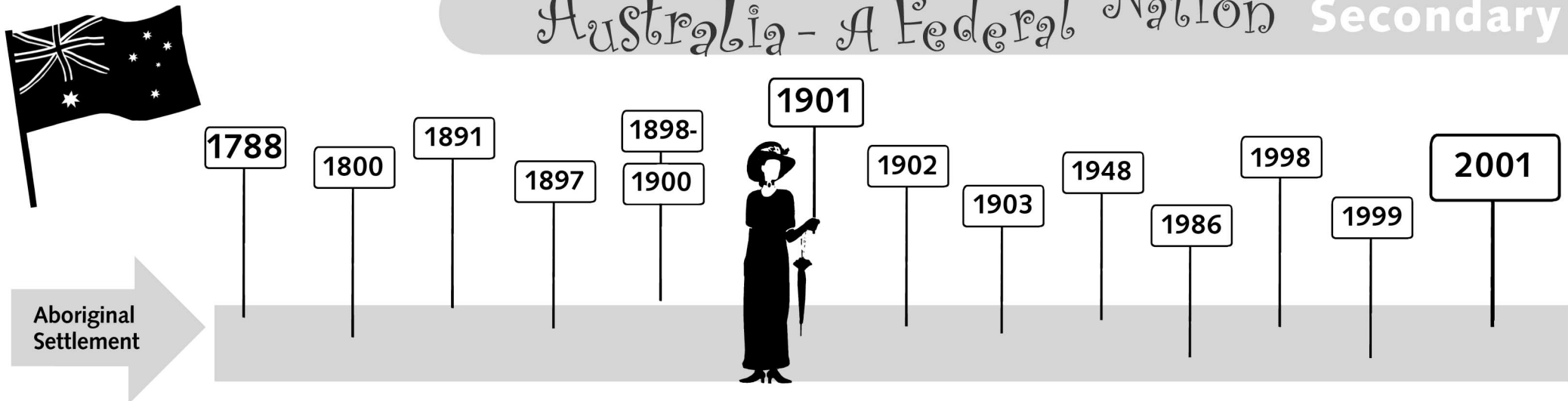


Australia - A Federal Nation Secondary



ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT

For over 40000 years Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have inhabited the Australian continent. They developed their own tribal laws and decision-making processes.

1788 The first colony, New South Wales, settled by the British. It was ruled by a governor appointed by the British government.

1800s Six self-governing colonies are established with similar forms of parliamentary government.

1855 NSW, VIC, TAS **1859** QLD

1856 SA **1890** WA

1891 First Constitutional Convention held to draft a federal constitution.

1897 Delegates are elected to a representative Constitutional Convention to finalise draft constitution.

1898-1900 Referendums on the Constitution held in all six colonies.

FEDERATION

1901 1 January Inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia.

29-30 March First federal election held according to state electoral laws.

9 May Opening of first Commonwealth Parliament in Victorian State Parliament building, Melbourne.

1902 Commonwealth Franchise Act and Commonwealth Electoral Act passed.

1903 Federal election held under Commonwealth Electoral Act.

1948 The Australian Citizenship Act passed. People born in Australia before the Act was passed were British subjects.

1986 Australia Acts passed making Australia an independent, sovereign nation and ending all powers of the British parliament to make or interpret laws for Australians.

1998 Constitutional Convention held to discuss issues about whether Australia should become a republic.

1999 Referendum held to vote to on the proposal that Australia become a republic. A majority of people voted NO.

2001 Centenary of Federation.