

NAME:

# Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees – 1950s and 1960s

Read through the '1950s and 1960s' section (page 14) of the fact book and complete the following activities.

## ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. Why do you think Australia would set up assisted migration schemes with European countries?
2. Why would Australia offer asylum to people at this time?
3. What was significant about the Migration Act 1966?
4. The Hungarian Revolution and the Prague Spring were both part of a much larger conflict. What was the conflict called and who was involved?

## ACTIVITY 2 – SOURCE ANALYSIS

1. Compare and contrast [Source 4.1 \(page 14\)](#) and [Source 4.2 \(page 14\)](#). What are the differences and similarities in the information presented?



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## ACTIVITY 2 – SOURCE ANALYSIS

2. How useful are these sources for providing evidence on the White Australia Policy? Why?

3. [Source 4.2 \(page 14\)](#) and [Source 4.3 \(page 15\)](#) were both produced in 1968, but they present opposite perspectives. Why would the perspectives of the authors be different? Who may have written these sources and why?



# Teacher Guide – Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees – 1950s and 1960s

## ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

### 1. Why do you think Australia would set up assisted migration schemes with European countries?

The Australian Government wanted to increase Australia's population. British migration was not able to meet the targets that the Government had set, so they set up assisted migration schemes with a number of European countries. European countries still contained the 'desirable' migrants that Australia wanted.

### 2. Why would Australia offer asylum to people at this time?

During this time, Australia offered asylum to a number of different groups. First of all, taking in asylum seekers allowed Australia to further boost its population. Secondly, in the midst of the Cold War, Australia would have been concerned about the Soviet influence over these countries and were therefore happy to take refugees who had more democratic values.

### 3. What was significant about the Migration Act 1966?

The Migration Act 1966 was significant as it established legal equality between British, European and non-European migrants to Australia. This meant that under Australian law, migrants from all countries would be treated the same.

### 4. The Hungarian Revolution and the Prague Spring were both part of a much larger conflict. What was the conflict called and who was involved?

The larger ideological conflict was called the Cold War. The two sides of the Cold War were the Soviet Union and its satellite states, and the United States and its NATO allies. There was no direct large scale fighting between the two sides, but there were proxy wars.

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## ACTIVITY 2 – SOURCE ANALYSIS

1. Compare and contrast **Source 4.1 (page 14)** and **Source 4.2 (page 14)**. What are the differences and similarities in the information presented?

Both sources were written after the introduction of the Migration Act 1966, which established legal equality among all migrants to Australia. Source 4.1 mentions the '10 pound pom' scheme and says that some 'coloured Britons' are emigrating to Australia. However, it also states that the new policies are not being promoted. On the other hand, Source 4.2 states that there has been an extensive advertising campaign seeking skilled British tradespeople to migrate to Australia. This source also says that 'no applications will be considered from coloured persons of British birth.' The two sources present different perspectives on the change in Australia's immigration policy.

2. How useful are these sources for providing evidence on the White Australia Policy? Why?

These sources are very useful for providing evidence on the White Australia policy. First of all, they are both primary sources, written during the time when Australia's immigration policies were undergoing major changes. In addition, both sources originated in Britain, which is where Australia's immigration strategy was mainly targeted.

3. **Source 4.2 (page 14)** and **Source 4.3 (page 15)** were both produced in 1968, but they present opposite perspectives. Why would the perspectives of the authors be different? Who may have written these sources and why?

Source 4.2 was produced by the Australian High Commission in London, but it contains a letter to a London newspaper written by J. Powell, who lived in Chiswick, Britain. This letter was written by Powell as he/she was upset about Australia's discriminatory immigration policy. Source 4.3 was produced by the Australian Government. The source presents a positive view of the results of the changes to the Migration Act 1966. The Australian Government would obviously want to give a positive perspective on these changes, which would influence the information presented.