Before 1901, Australia was not a nation. At that time, the continent consisted of six British colonies which were partly self-governing, but subject to the law-making power of the British Parliament. Each colony had its own government and laws, including its own railway system, postage stamps and tariffs (taxes). This caused a lot of problems and people began to think about the benefits of uniting as one nation, under a federal system of governance.

Activity - The Road to Federation


Watch the video.

Part way through the video is a map showing the six separate colonies. On the map provided divide Australia into the six colonies. Around the outside of your map record dot points about how the six colonies were like six separate countries. Inside the map record the areas that people thought a national government should look after.
AUSTRALIA'S SIX COLONIES