

4. *Commonwealth scrapbook*

Collect and display news items and pictures from newspapers and magazines about people and events in Commonwealth countries. Arrange them according to their subject (e.g. sport, agriculture, international meetings, elections, and arts).

5. *Music*

Try to obtain and play recordings of music and folk songs from other Commonwealth countries.

6. *Cooking*

Parents and others may also be able to provide recipes of national dishes and help the children to prepare them.

7. *Other activities*

- Encouraging pupils to participate in Commonwealth-wide essay competitions (e.g. those organized by the Royal Commonwealth Society).
- Discussions and debates on world issues in which the role of the Commonwealth can be explored — for example, relations between rich and poor countries.
- Each student or group of students selects a Commonwealth country for study and presents a short talk to the class.
- Students conduct imaginary dialogue between heads of government of selected Commonwealth countries.

Commonwealth Day

The following ideas for this Day are suggested:

1. The singing of the National Anthem.
2. A procession of Commonwealth flags with the names of the states pinned on to the students. These flags could be cardboard replicas made in the classroom.
3. Readings emphasizing international understanding and co-operation.
4. A national song or hymn, or a national dance or choral speech.
5. A closing prayer for greater love and understanding and lasting peace.

THE COMMONWEALTH TODAY

The 48 member countries of the Commonwealth are situated in every part of the world. They vary enormously in size and population.

The peoples of the Commonwealth vary enormously, too, in faith, race, language and colour.

The economies of Commonwealth members also differ. The Commonwealth includes a few of the world's developed

industrialized countries but the majority are developing countries, and include many of the world's poorest.

The modern Commonwealth began to take shape in 1947 when India became a member after it became independent.

Its growth accelerated in 1957 when Ghana gained its independence. Since then, new nations in Africa, Asia, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean have chosen to become Commonwealth members. The newest member is Brunei which joined in 1984. As the first of the self-governing Dominions, Canada and Canadians have always played a significant role in Commonwealth affairs.

The Queen is the symbol and Head of the Commonwealth even though many of its members are republics, while others have their own monarchs.

Since 1965 the Commonwealth has been served by an international secretariat with offices in London. Its staff is made up of people from all over the Commonwealth. The first Secretary-General was a Canadian, Mr. Arnold Smith, and the current one is Mr. Shridath Ramphal from Guyana.

The Secretariat organizes meetings and conferences that bring people from Commonwealth countries together to plan and carry out agreed programmes. It also implements the decisions of heads of government on co-operation in the political, economic and social spheres.

DECLARATION OF COMMONWEALTH PRINCIPLES

On 22 January 1971, at their meeting in Singapore, Commonwealth Heads of Government unanimously approved the following Declaration of Commonwealth Principles:

THE Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of independent sovereign states, each responsible for its own policies, consulting and co-operating in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace.

MEMBERS of the Commonwealth come from territories in the six continents and five oceans, include peoples of different races, languages and religions, and display every stage of economic development from poor developing nations to wealthy industrialized nations. They encompass a rich variety of cultures, traditions and institutions.

MEMBERSHIP of the Commonwealth is compatible with the freedom of member governments to be non-aligned or to belong to any other grouping, association or alliance. Within this diversity all members of the Commonwealth hold certain principles in common. It is by pursuing these principles that the Commonwealth can continue to influence international society for the benefit of mankind.