

Symbols in Parliament

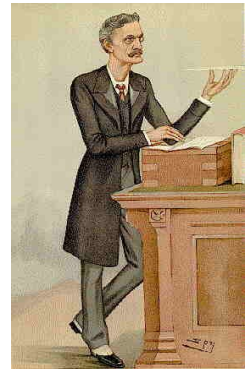


In early parliaments, the Mace was used as a weapon to protect the Speaker from Members of Parliament or the King. Today the Speaker is well respected and no longer needs protection. The Mace is now a symbol of the power of the Speaker and therefore the power of Parliament. The Mace must be in the Chamber for Parliament to be in session.

Every parliament in Australia has its own unique Mace. The Northern Territory's Mace is made of silver and gold gilt and weighs 4.26kg. It was made by Garrard, the Crown Jewellers in London. From the top the St George Cross, sits on a crown, which has French fleur-de-lis wrapped around its base. Below the crown, the orb of the Mace has the Northern Territory's Coat of Arms on one side, the Queen's monogram on the other, and stylised wedge-tailed eagles connect it to the shaft. The Sturt's Desert Rose intertwined with the Tudor Rose twists around the shaft. Finally at the base is a spider conch shell which is found on the Northern Territory coast.



Another symbol in Parliament is the dispatch box. Dispatch boxes were once used to take bills that had been passed and other important papers to and from the King or Queen for their approval. Although they no longer carry papers, all Parliaments have dispatch boxes. Some use them as speaking points in the Chamber. In the Northern Territory they are simply traditional and a symbolic link to the early parliaments. Occasionally special speeches are delivered from the dispatch boxes including the budget speech and reply.



An additional symbolic feature of Northern Territory's Legislative Assembly is that the Chamber is green. Almost all lower houses in the Westminster System are green because traditionally the House of Commons in England has always been green. If we had an upper house, it would be red, the traditional colour of the House of Lords.

ACTIVITY ⇒ Symbolic Word Search

- Parliament
- Dispatch Box
- Mace
- Legislative Chamber
- Green
- Westminster
- Symbol
- Speaker
- Power
- Bills
- Tradition
- Weapon
- Assembly
- England

H	O	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y	U	P	B	E
U	S	E	X	O	B	H	C	T	A	P	S	I	D
P	O	W	E	R	W	O	T	R	D	N	S	L	E
A	R	C	E	H	C	L	N	U	E	O	S	L	K
R	C	E	N	S	P	S	E	A	R	I	K	S	E
T	H	S	Y	P	T	Y	M	C	B	T	N	M	P
H	A	N	M	E	U	M	A	W	P	I	L	U	D
I	M	G	T	A	N	B	I	O	E	D	F	S	N
S	B	I	R	K	I	O	L	N	I	A	R	I	A
I	E	W	M	E	Q	L	R	T	S	R	P	Z	L
S	R	D	C	R	E	U	A	C	E	T	J	O	G
F	G	A	H	O	B	N	P	R	V	P	E	X	N
U	M	V	L	E	C	H	G	F	Y	N	U	R	E
N	R	L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	I	V	E	C

ANSWERS— Symbolic Word Search

H	O	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y	U	P	B	E
U	S	E	X	O	B	H	C	T	A	P	S	I	D
P	O	W	E	R	W	O	T	R	D	N	S	L	E
A	R	C	E	H	C	L	N	U	E	O	S	L	K
R	C	E	N	S	P	S	E	A	R	I	K	S	E
T	H	S	Y	P	T	Y	M	C	B	T	N	M	P
H	A	N	M	E	U	M	A	W	P	I	L	U	D
I	M	G	T	A	N	B	I	O	E	D	F	S	N
S	B	I	R	K	I	O	L	N	I	A	R	I	A
I	E	W	M	E	Q	L	R	T	S	R	P	Z	L
S	R	D	C	R	E	U	A	C	E	T	J	O	G
F	G	A	H	O	B	N	P	R	V	P	E	X	N
U	M	V	L	E	C	H	G	F	Y	N	U	R	E
N	R	L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	I	V	E	C

