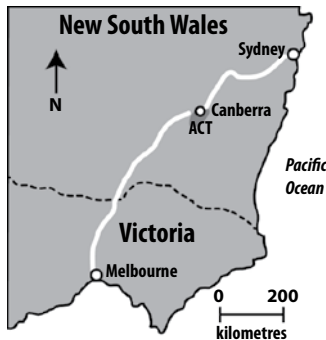


☐ Read the information, then complete the questions below.



Parliament House is where members of the House of Representatives and members of the Senate meet to discuss matters of importance. Parliament House is located on Capital Hill in Canberra and was opened in 1988 by the Queen of Australia – Elizabeth II. Its location settled the dispute between Sydney and Melbourne – both states fought to have Parliament located in their cities.

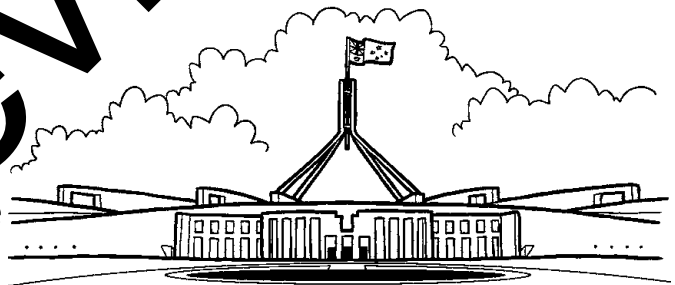
There are 4,700 rooms inside Parliament House and many of these rooms are made available for the public to view. The public entrance leads to the main foyer which in turn leads

to the Great Hall which displays a tapestry based on the work of the Australian artist Arthur Boyd. Below the tapestry is a removable division which leads to the Members' Hall which houses a large water feature. The Members' Hall is not open to the public. The Members' Hall is situated between the House of Representatives chamber and the Senate chamber and there is access to both Houses from the Members' Hall. In the Ministerial Wing of the building are the Prime Minister's and other ministers' offices.

Within the House of Representatives, there is a press gallery to seat members of the media directly above the Speaker.

Either side of the press gallery are galleries reserved to seat 388 members of the public. A gallery to seat school groups is located at the very top. The chamber is soundproof as there is no talking permitted when members of the House are present. The Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader sit at the front of their respective teams at the central table.

Minor and independent members sit in the central curved part of the U-shape. The Speaker runs the chamber and ensures that rules (standing orders) are followed. The Mace is a symbol of the authority of the House of Representatives and the Speaker. It is made of silver and is coated in gold. It weighs around 8 kilograms. It is placed on the central table at the start of each sitting and points towards the government members. The layout of the Senate is very similar to that of the House of Representatives.



1. Based on the information above, sketch a basic floor plan of Parliament House on the back of this sheet.
2. Look at the picture of the front entrance of Parliament House above. It is boomerang-shaped. Outline the shape of the boomerang using a coloured pen on the picture.
3. Parliament House is topped by an 81 metre flag pole. Create a scale for the flag pole.

## Activity

# The House Of Representatives

☐ Read the information on the previous page, then complete the task.

1. Add a press gallery and two public galleries to the seating plan.
2. Indicate with the letters PM where you think the Prime Minister (if present) would sit.
3. Indicate with the letters OL where you think the Opposition Leader would sit if present.
4. Colour with a blue crayon where you think cabinet members would sit.
5. Colour red where minor party and independent members would sit.
6. On the back of this sheet, explain the Speaker's role and the significance of the Mace.

