

Make your mark on Melbourne

Help name the new Metro Tunnel stations and be part of Victoria's biggest ever public transport project.



SECONDARY SCHOOL: CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

These notes provide suggestions for engaging a class to come up with names for the one or more of the new underground stations in the Metro Tunnel and can be used to generate entries for the Station Naming Competition: **Entries close Sunday 22 October 2017.**

It is designed to be used with:

 [Station Map](#)

 [Evaluating Station Names Worksheet](#)

Setting The Scene

**1. Ask students the following:
“Besides people and pets what things do we give names to?”**

Some suggestions include:

- countries and states
- cities, towns and streets
- rivers
- schools
- shopping centres and brands
- airports
- sports facilities, stadiums, swimming pool and clubs
- Train stations

2. Ask students to identify the names of train stations close to their school, where they have lived, that they have visited.

Some suggestions include:

- Flinders St
- Southern Cross
- Melbourne Central
- Richmond Station
- Murrumbeena
- Waterloo

3. Ask students: “How did these stations get their names?”

- Is the station named after a person or place?
- Does the name commemorate an important event?
- Is it an Aboriginal name that acknowledges the traditional owners of the land?

If more time is available you could assign individuals or groups to research the origin of particular station names.

Setting The Scene (Continued)

4. Ask students to think about the most common ways we come up with names for public places such as stations.

For example:

- using names that are relevant and make good sense for the particular location.
- using names that celebrate important events, often historical (e.g. Federation Square).
- using the names of Australians who are no longer alive but who are held in high regard and/or gave outstanding service to their country.
- using Aboriginal names where appropriate (eg. Yarra River – it is believed that ‘Yarra’ means “waterfall”, “flow”, or refers to running or falling water).



Flinders Street is named for the explorer Matthew Flinders.

Station Naming Competition

1. Introduce the Metro Tunnel Project and Station Naming Competition.

📄 Distribute Station Map

- 🎥 **Show video** and/or explain competition using text below:

The State of Victoria is building the Metro Tunnel to free up the City Loop, Melbourne’s biggest bottleneck, by running some of our busiest train lines through a new tunnel. It’s a huge project but it will untangle the network, so we can run more trains, more often across Melbourne.

The once-in-a-generation Metro Tunnel Project will transform the way people move around Melbourne, connecting parts of the city to the rail network for the first time and paving the way for international-style ‘turn up and go’ services.

Twin nine-kilometre tunnels will deliver a new pathway through the heart of the city for three of Melbourne’s busiest rail lines, creating space for more trains to run more often across the rail network.

Five new underground stations will be built in Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain.

The Victorian Government is asking everyone to help them identify the best name for each of the new stations. They are keen to harness the creativity of young

Victorians and ensure they have a say in naming the stations they will be using in decades to come.

All entries that suggest a name for a station that is subsequently identified as one of the final station names will go into a draw to win an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Metro Tunnel works for your class.

2. Decide whether you want the class to consider names for all the stations, just those in the city centre or the one closest to your school.

- Begin by getting students to volunteer any naming suggestions that come to mind.
- Use the resulting discussion to start identifying some of the challenges for choosing a name.

These could include:

- Differing opinions about who or what should be honoured or commemorated in this way.
- What issues could arise with naming a station after a person?
- If we wish to use Aboriginal language names – how might we go about identifying these?
- Competing interests - if a location has several high profile features or facilities, which one takes precedence for naming?

- Names that are inappropriate or could cause offence on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexuality, gender.
- Names that have been used before.
- Names that might not prove practical - too long or hard to pronounce.
- Names that could prove confusing in an emergency situation.
- The need to consider future users of the station as well as tourists/visitors who are unfamiliar with the place and could be confused by “in” names or jokes.



Station concourse at Parkville – concept design.

Station Naming Competition (continued)

3. How might we resolve all these issues and find the best name for each station?

Distribute Evaluating Station Names Worksheet

- > Introduce the concept of naming criteria and using these to assess the relative merit of each suggestion.
- > Invite students in groups to identify a set of station naming criteria. If groups are assigned to different stations there is the opportunity to identify some specific criteria for each location.
- > Ask each group to share their criteria with the class and use the resulting discussion to refine these into one list which can be used to evaluate station naming suggestions.

HINT: The Station Naming Competition webpage provides guidelines for naming public places.

For example, names must be no longer than three words or 25 characters in total. Only names that comply with the State's naming rules for places can be added to the shortlist to be considered by the Victorian Government.

If more time is available you could assign individuals or groups to visit the **Office of Geographic Names website**, research the naming rules for places in more detail, and report back to the class.

4. Evaluating Station Names Worksheet

- > Working in groups, students document their final criteria and use the table to assess the value of each suggested name against their agreed criteria.
- > Students can be given an opportunity to review and re-prioritise their criteria before making a shortlist of names that meet all or most of their criteria.

5. Further ideas for evaluating naming suggestions

- > Students could vote to determine their top suggestions. One option is for the class to have a round of voting. At the end of the round, the least popular option is eliminated. This process is repeated until only one option is left.

- > Hold a class debate with speakers arguing the case for their station naming whilst identifying the weaknesses in their opposition's choice.

6. Assessment ideas

Things to look out for include:

- students' willingness to contribute to class discussions.
- students' ability to work co-operatively and acknowledge one another's ideas.
- students' ability to come up with, refine and stick to criteria for naming the stations.
- student's ability to explain their choices and advocate them to others.

Entering the Station Naming Competition

Entries Close 22 October 2017

All students can submit naming suggestions by visiting the Station Naming Competition web page. If any of their suggestions become a final station name, they will be in the running to win an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Metro Tunnel works for their class. A representative from Melbourne Metro Rail Authority will contact the principal of your school if an entry from one of your students wins.

- > If you have internet access in the classroom, invite students to enter their submissions online at **metrotunnel.vic.gov.au** or set this task as a homework activity.
- > Or call us on **1800 551 927** to request a class pack of entry cards and a pre-paid postpack so you can return them to us.

Additional links

- Further information about naming rules for places in Victoria: **metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/namingrules**
- Further information and images of each of the five new stations: **metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/stations**
- Train line benefits: **metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/linebenefits**
- Project interactive map: **metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/imap**

Attribution: The material for this station naming activity has been adapted from teaching resources produced by the Antarctic Division (part of Department of the Environment) for Classroom Antarctica, ©Commonwealth of Australia 2017. **classroom.antarctica.gov.au**