



# Education Program

Name *that Station*

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

What names would you have chosen for the new Metro Tunnel stations that will be built for Victoria’s biggest ever public transport project?

These notes provide suggestions for engaging a class to come up with different names for one or more of the new Metro Tunnel underground stations.

It is designed to be used with:

- [\*\*Drawing Activity Worksheet\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Naming Our Stations brochure\*\*](#)



### Setting The Scene

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

Some suggestions include:

- pets
- streets
- towns and cities
- rivers
- schools
- airports
- shopping centres and brands
- sports facilities, stadiums, swimming pool and clubs
- 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 Street
- Southern Cross
- Richmond
- Sandringham
- Merri
- Ruthven
- Grand Central
- 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 names for public places such as stations are selected.

For example:

- using names that are relevant and make good sense for the particular location
- using names that celebrate important historical events (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).

### 5. What might be some of the practical things to think about when choosing a name for a station?

- Not too long – it needs to fit on maps and signs (the naming rules for public places in Victoria advises no more than three words and 25 characters in total)
- Simple and easy to remember and say – think about tourists or other visitors travelling in an unfamiliar city.

- Does not create confusion or duplicate the name of another place nearby.
- Station names should help people find their way – this could be critical in an emergency situation.



*Flinders Street is named after the explorer Matthew Flinders.*

## Station Naming Activity

### 1. Introduce the Metro Tunnel Project and Station Naming Activity.

#### **Distribute the Naming our Stations brochure**

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

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

The once-in-a-generation project will transform the way people move around, connecting parts of the city to the rail network for the first time and creating international-style ‘turn up and go’ services that are the hallmark of the world’s great cities such as London, New York, Hong Kong and Singapore.

As a result, room will be created on the network to enable an additional 504,000 passengers per week across Melbourne’s train network to use the rail system during the peak periods.

The Victorian Government recently asked the public to help them identify the best name for each of the five new underground stations in the Metro Tunnel. They wanted all Victorians to have a say in naming the stations they will be using for decades to come and received almost 50,000 naming suggestions from more than 10,000 individuals – 10 per cent of them from people under the age of 18.

The names the Government chose were all amongst the most popular suggestions submitted for each station: Arden, Parkville, State Library, Town Hall and Anzac. They also strongly reflect the station locations.

Do you think you could have chosen better names?

### 2. Decide whether you want the class to consider names for all the stations, just those in the city centre or the one most familiar to your students.

- > Individually or in groups ask students to consider the chosen names, think of their own naming suggestions and share their top choices with the class.
- > Ask students to complete the **Station Drawing Activity Worksheet** with their preferred station name and using their imagination to add other details. Note: the clear panels along the edge of the platform will feature in all of the new stations. They are platform screening doors, a safety feature which separates commuters from trains, with the doors opening when the train arrives and is stationary.
- > Create a Station Naming wall display to showcase students’ work.

The links on the next page can assist in providing students with more details about each station and its location.

## Station Naming Activity (continued)

### 3. Further ideas for evaluating naming suggestions:

- > Students could vote to determine the most popular suggestions overall. 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.

If working with older students:

- > You might like to use the class discussion generated by questions 4 and 5 in Setting The Scene to develop a set of criteria for naming stations. The Naming Our Stations brochure includes some of the State's Naming Rules which provided a good starting point for this exercise. For instance, the official naming rules for places in Victoria advise that names should be no longer than three words or 25 characters in total.

- > Then ask students to use a table or similar device (see **Evaluating Station Names Worksheet** and **Secondary Schools Classroom Activity**) to assess the value of each name against their agreed criteria.
- > Students can be given an opportunity to review and reprioritise their criteria before making a shortlist of names that meet all or most of their criteria.
- > Hold a class debate with speakers arguing the case for their station name whilst identifying the weaknesses in their opposition's choice.

### 4. 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 and stick to criteria for naming the stations
- students' care, creativity and attention to detail in completing the worksheet.

## Visit Metro Tunnel HQ

**A free session at our visitor centre is a fantastic way for your students to learn more about the Metro Tunnel Project.**

The interactive displays on the ground floor encourage students to explore the challenges of building new public transport infrastructure to support our growing population and the amazing tunnel boring machines that will construct twin 9km rail tunnels.

Activities in our classroom space are designed for groups of either primary or secondary school students, targeting careers learning and STEAM skills.

Metro Tunnel HQ is located in the heart of Melbourne, close to the Melbourne Town Hall.

To find out more and book your class in for a visit:

**[metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/hq](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/hq)**

125-133 Swanston St, Melbourne

### Additional information

- The **Naming Our Stations brochure** explains the process used to choose the final station names and identifies some of most popular and unusual naming suggestions made by the public.
- Further information about each of the five new stations: Train line benefits: **[metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/linebenefits](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/linebenefits)**



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](http://classroom.antarctica.gov.au)**