

'INVESTIGATING' NOTES

The following lesson gets students to use ICT skills to research and find out more about the Mabo case. As it is delivered to a year 8 class, students are provided with essential background information and encouraged to use specific sources in their investigation. This way, the activity really focuses on investigation, comprehension and information literacy. The main activity is located on the last slide.

MABO V QUEENSLAND

8HASS

THE MABO CASE MABO V QUEENSLAND

- This case concerned 'Native Title'
- **Native Title:** legal principle that recognizes that Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people have rights over land they occupied prior to British settlement

TERRA NULLIUS

- Terra nullius: ‘Land belonging to no one’.
- When the British settled in Australia, they claimed terra nullius, which meant they claimed that Australia was legally uninhabited (despite Indigenous people living here for thousands of years).

INTRO TO MABO

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzS82Mbuhwk>



INTRO TO MABO

- The legal action started in 1982. Eddie Mabo (and a few others) sued the State of Queensland, claiming that the Meriam people had claim to 'Native Title' to the Murray Islands.
- This challenged terra nullius
- By claiming that he and his people had Native Title over the Murray Islands, it was challenging the validity of terra nullius.

YOUR TURN

Conduct some research and answer the following questions:

- How did the Mabo case challenge terra nullius?
- What were the names of the other plaintiffs?
- Did the High Court decide in favour of Mabo?
- What was the impact of the High Court decision? What did it mean for Native Title?
- Why was the Native Title Act (1993) passed?

This website will be very helpful!

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/mabo-case>