Flying the flag (lower key stage 2)

What the photo says
Children will respond to the youth and enthusiasm of these Australian fans supporting their country at the Commonwealth Games, Melbourne, in 2006.

Children may begin to develop the concepts of citizenship, global relationships, and sustainability as they begin to understand the issues behind the photo, and the suggested activity allows excellent opportunities to respond to the questioning and discussion generated by the children through their reactions to the work.

This work is particularly appropriate for a year group studying the Victorians.

Lesson idea
Context: Knowledge of places, patterns, and processes.

Other resources
- atlas set/globes and blank world maps
- map of the Commonwealth
- information about/internet access for research on world maps.

Suggested activities
1. As a class, examine the photo, identifying the Australian flag. (The girl in the centre seems to be wearing the Union Flag – but look at her cheek!) Why does it have the Union Flag on it as well? Discuss the Commonwealth and Empire; allow time for children’s questioning/reactions to this.
2. In pairs, children use the information or websites on flags of the world and the world map in their atlas to locate other countries which feature the Union Flag in their own national flag. They mark these on their blank world maps. This activity could be completed successfully using ICT.
3. The children should compare their map with a map of the Commonwealth. Can they find countries in the Commonwealth which do not use the Union Flag? Why do you think this is? How do you think people in Commonwealth countries feel about the UK? Why do you think this?

Curriculum opportunities
Global dimension: global links between countries
Citizenship: rights and responsibilities; the legacy of Empire
Personal, learning and thinking skills: enquiry skills, empathy.

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