**High Court Activity**

Go to the **High Court of Australia** webpage (<http://www.hcourt.gov.au/about/history>). Read the sections and answer the following questions:

* 1. Why does the High Court exist?
  2. How many justices sit on the High Court bench?
  3. Who is the current Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia?
  4. What type of cases does the High Court deal with?
  5. In what year did the High Court first sit?
  6. Who was the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia?
  7. How many justices sat on the bench in its first case?
  8. What happened to the composition of the High Court in 1906 and 1913?

Using the internet find a copy of the *Commonwealth Constitution of Australia*. Read the following questions using the Constitution to answer them:

1. Which sections of the Constitution establish the High Court of Australia and its jurisdiction?
2. How many justices sit on the High Court at any one time?
3. At what age do High Court justices retire?
4. Using examples, and referencing the Constitution, explain what is meant by *concurrent powers*.
5. Select two of the areas of concurrent powers listed in section 51 and explain how both a State Parliament and the Commonwealth Parliament could make laws in those areas that do not conflict.
6. What sections of the Constitution give the High Court the power to interpret the Constitution?
7. Look at section 51(vi) of the Constitution. Explain any term in this section that might require an interpretation to bring the term into modern usage.
8. Look at section 51(xiii) of the Constitution. Explain any term in this section that might require an interpretation to bring the term into modern usage.
9. Identify another subsection of section 51 of the Constitution that might be open to interpretation. Explain why you think this may be necessary.