



State Library images
1904 unidentified ship
B3138304

PRE AND POST WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Sourcing the Swan River Colony

Thank you for booking a visit to the State Library of Western Australia. The Education Centre is a stimulating space for students to engage with State Library collections, investigate Western Australian history and be creative.

Sourcing the Swan River Colony is a workshop for students in Year 5, with a focus on online research of Swan River colonists and early Aboriginal people. It supports the Western Australian HaSS curriculum. The workshop engages students in primary and secondary historical resources available through the State Library of WA catalogue, Trove and the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

The purpose of this teacher's guide is to support you with ideas and activities which relate to online research, particularly of the lives of people in the early Swan River Colony.

Before your visit

- What is a primary source of information? Ask students to ask their parents to view primary source materials at home that tell the story of their life, such as family photographs, journal entries, birth certificates, passports and school reports. Consider how these materials build a picture of a person's life.
- What is a secondary source of information? Ask students to write a recount of a real event from their own life as if they were an outsider looking in many years later. Encourage them to use the primary sources they found at home as inspiration.
- Draw a T-chart on the board with 'primary source' in one column and 'secondary source' in the other. Place as many historical sources of information you can think of into each of the columns. Eg: newspaper articles (depends on the date it was written), photos, interviews, encyclopaedias, maps. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both primary and secondary materials, discussing which is most effective for different types of enquiry.
- Ask students to look up the definition of the word 'research'. What does researching a person involve? What would you like to know about their life? Write down some key research questions.

- What are key words and what are they used for? Ask students to conduct a search online of the Swan River Colony, using a range of different key words. Assess which combination of words provides the best results.

After your visit

- To find more information, including primary source materials, about life in the Swan River Colony, look through the following pages on the State Library website: <http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/findinghome>
- When students have finished researching their colonist or early Aboriginal person online, ask them to present their information in a booklet, power point presentation, website or blog.
- Using the results of their online research as inspiration, students create an historical narrative based on an aspect of the life of a colonist or early Aboriginal person. Encourage students to use photographs from the SLWA collection to illustrate their story.
- Students create a mock primary source historical piece based on their research findings. Examples include: write a newspaper article, draw/digitally create a mock photograph about a particular event in the person's life, or design a birth certificate based on the person's biographical data.
- Choose a picture book based on an historical colonial event or person. Examples include *Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck*, or *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*. Using the research skills developed in the workshop, students find photos and newspaper articles which the author may have accessed to research the story to find out whether the story is fact or fiction.



State Library images
1904 unidentified ship
B3138304

PRE AND POST WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Sourcing the Swan River Colony

Recommended websites:

- State Library of Western Australia catalogue
www.slwa.wa.gov.au
- Swan River Stories
http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river
- Finding Home
<http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/findinghome>
- Mary Ann Friend Journal
<https://slwa.wa.gov.au/stories/slwa-abc-radio/mary-ann-friends-journal>
- Trove www.trove.nla.gov.au
- ABC Education
<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/digibook/2827360/the-colonisation-of-perth>
- Australian Dictionary of Biography
<http://adb.anu.edu.au>
- East Perth Cemeteries
<http://www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au/>
- The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians
<http://www.friendsofbattleylibrary.org.au/the-bicentennial-dictionary-of-western-australians.html>

Recommended reading:

The following is a list of texts that explore the topic of Western Australian colonial life:

- Greenwood, M. (2013). *Jandamarra*. Australia: Allen & Unwin.
- Greenwood, M. (2010). *Ned Kelly and the Green Sash*. Australia: Walker Books.
- Greenwood, M. & Lessac, F. (2011). *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*. Australia: Walker Books.
- Marsden, J. & Tan, S. (2010). *The Rabbits*. Australia: Hachette Australia. (This is an allegory about the theme of occupation which can be applied to the colonisation of Australia.)
- Ormerod, J. (2013). *Lizzie Nonsense*. Australia: Little Hare
- Owen Reeder, S. (2011). *Amazing Grace: An Adventure at Sea*. Australia: National Library of Australia.
- Saffioti, T. (2012). *Stolen Girl*. Australia: Magabala Books.

Curriculum links:

General capabilities: critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding, intercultural understanding.

HaSS: Skills – questioning and researching; analysing; evaluating; communicating and reflecting.

History – first contacts; the Australian colonies

English: Language – text structure and organisation; purpose, audience and structures of different types of text.

Literature – responding to literature; creating literature.

Literacy – texts in context; interacting with others; interpreting, analysing, evaluating; creating texts.



PRE AND POST WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES