



## PRE AND POST WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

### Books and More: Perth Experiences

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 and investigate Western Australian history.

**Books and More: Perth Experiences** is a workshop for students in Years 3 and 4, exploring different places in Perth where families spend time together. It supports the Western Australian HaSS curriculum and relates to the theme of continuity and change. The workshop engages students with a range of primary and secondary source materials from the State Library's collections. Students interpret resources and discuss how places in Perth have changed or stayed the same over time.

The purpose of this teacher's guide is to provide pre and post workshop activities.

#### Before your visit

- Where do Western Australians like to go in Perth at the weekend? In small groups, students compile a list of places to go as a family. Would you expect all Australian cities and big towns to have similar places? Why/not?
- What are the local attractions in your area? Look at how these are promoted online and in print media. What is the purpose of each attraction – to entertain, to honour history, to celebrate culture, or something else? What is the impact of the attraction on the area?
- Students list the types of activities they enjoy in their spare time. Compare these to activities people used to participate in. What has changed? What has stayed the same?
- How does Perth's climate affect the range of activities people engage in? What do you think people living in cold climates might do in their spare time that might be different to what we do here?
- Students research the connection between early Aboriginal people and the Swan River using the State Library website: [http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan\\_river](http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river) (If you have Aboriginal students, you may like to consider consulting their parents or elders prior to engaging with this activity.) Students write a personal piece of prose, or speak directly to the class, describing how they imagine it would have been like for Aboriginal people to see European explorers in boats on the river.

- In 1827, botanist Charles Fraser provided some descriptions of the Swan River: *"I have seen a number of black swans, which could not be estimated at less than five hundred rise at once...the noise and rushing occasioned by the flapping of their wings...is quite unique."* Students imagine what the river looked like in the olden days and write a series of diary entries from the perspective of an early European explorer navigating the Swan River. Use the State Library website to find facts to support this activity: <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/freycinet/swan-river> and [https://slwa.wa.gov.au/swan\\_river/caring\\_for\\_the\\_river/black\\_swans.html](https://slwa.wa.gov.au/swan_river/caring_for_the_river/black_swans.html)



Perth from Kings Park: 1905 (000783D), 1930 (b4712514\_3), (b3527908\_2)  
State Library of Western Australia



## After your visit

- What information did each type of collection piece (photos, tickets, maps etc) in the Books and More boxes provide? Students fold an A4 page into four and list how each primary source collection can be used to find historical information.
- Use the resources on the State Library website to discover what life was like for the early European settlers establishing a new colony in Perth  
<http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/findinghome> Students share what they learned with their peers.
- Use the State Library catalogue to find some photographs of the Perth Zoo and print these for students\*. Students discuss the purpose of the zoo and how it has changed over time. Is there a place for zoos in modern Australia? Students present their views in a poster or persuasive text.
- Students look up the word 'iconic' in the dictionary. Why have surf life savers become iconic images of Australian life? What other iconic images of Australia can students think of? Students design a poster of iconic Australian images using the State Library's online photographic collection.
- Students research the history, purpose and appealing qualities of a local Perth attraction. Use this information to design a brochure or pamphlet that encourages people to visit.
- Ask students to design a new Perth attraction. Where would it be located? What are its features and how would it benefit the city?
- What is the purpose of the Perth Royal Agricultural Show? What does 'agricultural' mean? In small groups, students create a show bag with items celebrating farming in Western Australia.

\*Please note that only photographs with 'Available at Online' beneath their title are digitised and available for viewing online.



State Library of WA: 085455PD

### 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** – Australia as a nation

**Geography** – places are both similar and different

**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.

### Recommended reading:

The following is a list of texts that explore the topic of time, continuity and change:

Baker, J. (2007). *Belonging*. GB: Walker Books.

Baker, J. (2002). *Window*. GB: Walker Books.

Offen, R. (2016) *Perth Then and Now*. GB: Pavilion Books.

Wheatley, N. & Rawlins, D. (2008). *My Place*. Aus: Walker Books.

### Recommended websites:

- State Library of Western Australia catalogue  
[www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au)
- Rottneest Island Wildlife  
[wildlife.rottneestisland.com/](http://wildlife.rottneestisland.com/)
- Perth Zoo [perthzoo.wa.gov.au/conservation](http://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/conservation)
- Monument Australia  
[monumentaustalia.org.au/](http://monumentaustalia.org.au/)
- Heritage Perth [heritageperth.com.au/](http://heritageperth.com.au/)
- Kings Park [www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/](http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/)
- Perth Royal Show  
<https://www.raswa.org.au/education/schools-competitions/farm-skills/>