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PRE AND POST WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Digging up the Past – The Colonial Years

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.

Digging up the Past: The Colonial Years is a workshop for students in Years 4 and 5, focusing on historical narrative using picture books. It supports the Western Australian HaSS and English curricula. The workshop engages students in digitised resources available through the State Library of WA catalogue, Trove, and other relevant online resources.

The purpose of this teacher's guide is to support you with activities relating to the genre of historical narrative, through the theme of the colonisation of Western Australia.

Before your visit

- What is historical narrative? Discuss books, movies and television shows students may have seen or read that are based on historical events or people. Are these stories always completely accurate? What does 'based on true events' mean? Is there an element of fiction or bias in what is presented? Why is it important to cast a critical eye over what you see or read?
- Discuss student views of historical narratives. What makes engagement with this genre worthwhile? What are some of the potential downsides?
- Ask students to look up the definition of the word 'research'. What does researching an historical narrative involve?
- What are key words and what are they used for? Using a topic of choice, students conduct a search online using a range of different key words and assess which combination of words provides the best results.
- Working in pairs and using an online search engine, students investigate the difference between primary and secondary source information, providing a list of examples for each. As a class, create a T-chart of strengths and weaknesses for primary and secondary sources, discussing which is most effective for different types of enquiry.

- During the workshop, students will learn to research material relating to an historical narrative – **Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck** by Michelle Gillespie and Sonia Martinez, **The Legend of Moondyne Joe** by Mark Greenwood and Frane Lessac, or **Jandamarra** by Mark Greenwood and Terry Denton. Read and discuss the story with your class. The websites: www.markgreenwood.com.au and www.fremantlepress.com.au have some useful teacher notes for these books.

After your visit

- Choose another picture book based on an historical colonial event or person. Using the research skills developed in the workshop, students find photos and newspaper articles which the author may have accessed to research the story.
- Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast two stories on the same theme or event, eg: **Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck** and **Amazing Grace**; or **The Legend of Moondyne Joe** and **Ned Kelly and the Green Sash**. What do the stories have in common? How do they differ?
- Choose an event or person from Western Australia's colonial past to research. Ask students to find two primary and two secondary source materials and identify core information from each item.
- Using the Australian Dictionary of Biography website, students gather biographical information on an early European settler or prominent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.
- Students choose an event and/or person from Western Australia's colonial past to research and use their results as inspiration for their own historical narrative.





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Recommended websites:

- There are a number of paid websites which are accessible for free for State Library members through the State Library of Western Australia website. These include:
The West Australian Digital Archive
Britannica Library
Press Reader
BorrowBox
OverDrive
- State Library of Western Australia catalogue www.slwa.wa.gov.au
- Trove www.trove.nla.gov.au
- Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://adb.anu.edu.au>
- Encyclopedia.com www.encyclopedia.com
- Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com.au/>
- Fremantle Press www.fremantlepress.com.au
- Mark Greenwood www.markgreenwood.com.au

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 exploring 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.

