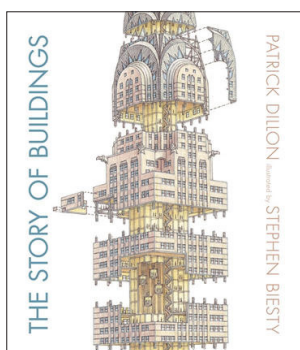


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## The Story of Buildings

Author: Patrick Dillon  
 Illustrator: Stephen Biesty  
 ISBN: 9781406335903  
 ARRP: \$32.95  
 NZRRP: \$34.99  
 April 2014

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

A highly readable book about architecture, lavishly illustrated with sixteen intricate cross sections.

From straw huts to skyscrapers, palaces to arts centres, *The Story of Buildings* takes us on a journey across continents and over centuries. Patrick Dillon selects sixteen of the most iconic buildings from around the world including the Parthenon, Notre Dame Cathedral, The Taj Mahal, The Forbidden City, The Bauhaus, Crystal Palace, The Sydney Opera House and The Pompidou Centre, and tells the remarkable human story behind each of them. Stephen Biesty's detailed, intricate cross-sections allow us to see inside these incredible structures and appreciate the inspiration of their creators. Technical information and architectural terms are explained in labels and flaps and there is an extensive index and timeline at the end of the book.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

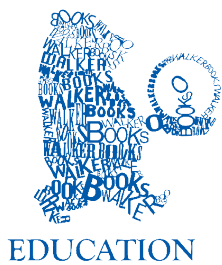
Patrick Dillon is an architect and historian. He is the author of *The Story of Britain*, a narrative history for children, and of two highly acclaimed history books for adults: *The Last Revolution* and *The Much - Lamented Death of Madam Geneva*. Patrick lives in London with his family.

Stephen Biesty loves history, architecture and drawing. These three interests led to his first book for children, the internationally bestselling *Incredible Cross-Sections* which has sold over a million copies worldwide. He has illustrated many others, including *Great Explorers*, *Incredible Explosions* and *Rome in Spectacular Cross-Section*. Stephen lives in Somerset with his family.

## How to use these notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

<p><b>These notes are for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary years 4-6</li> <li>• Ages 8+</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Learning Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Geography</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-fiction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Themes/ Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings</li> <li>• Ancient History</li> </ul>	<p><b>National Curriculum Focus:*</b>          Content descriptions include:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>English Year 4 ACELA1489 ACELA1490 ACELT1602 ACELT1604 ACELT1794 ACELY1689 ACELY1690 ACELY1694</td> <td>Year 5 ACELA1797 ACELT1608 ACELT1798 ACELY1699 ACELY1701 ACELY1703 ACELY1704</td> <td>Year 6 ACELA1518 ACELT1613 ACELY1710 ACELY1711 ACELY1712 ACELY1713 ACELY1801</td> <td>History Year 4 ACHHS081 ACHHS083 ACHHS084 ACHHS086</td> <td>Year 5 ACHHK097 ACHHS098 ACHHS100 ACHHS102 ACHHS104 ACHHS105</td> <td>Year 6 ACHHK116 ACHHS117 ACHHS121 ACHHS123 ACHHS124</td> <td>*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.</td> </tr> </table>	English Year 4 ACELA1489 ACELA1490 ACELT1602 ACELT1604 ACELT1794 ACELY1689 ACELY1690 ACELY1694	Year 5 ACELA1797 ACELT1608 ACELT1798 ACELY1699 ACELY1701 ACELY1703 ACELY1704	Year 6 ACELA1518 ACELT1613 ACELY1710 ACELY1711 ACELY1712 ACELY1713 ACELY1801	History Year 4 ACHHS081 ACHHS083 ACHHS084 ACHHS086	Year 5 ACHHK097 ACHHS098 ACHHS100 ACHHS102 ACHHS104 ACHHS105	Year 6 ACHHK116 ACHHS117 ACHHS121 ACHHS123 ACHHS124	*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.
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# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities

View the cover and title. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The publisher

Discuss the following: What is the role of the author? What is the role of the publisher?

From the front and back cover what information can you learn about the book? What do you think this book is about? What information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

How does the layout of this book affect the readability of the text? Consider the large illustrations, large headings and fold out pages.

Find the following sections in *The Story of Buildings* and explain their purpose. In what kind of books might you find these sections?

- Contents
- Timeline
- Index

What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?

Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?

Is this book fiction or non-fiction? How can you tell? Find examples of the language of opinion/feeling and factual reporting. What is the purpose of each type of language?

Form small groups and pick your favourite building from the book. Hold a discussion on the following:

- When was it built?
- Who built it?
- What is the purpose of this building?
- What materials were used to build it? Would they have been easy to obtain when it was built?
- Is the building still around today? Has it changed?

In the same groups, create a timeline of the creation of the building. See page 90-95 for an example of a timeline.

Large buildings take a lot of effort and cost a lot of money to build. Why do people or cities build these buildings?

Sketch your school or house with cross-sections in a similar style to Stephen Biesty's illustrations. Label the features and purposes of these features.

Read pages 80 – 83 and identify the reasons the design of the Sydney Opera House was chosen. Imagine you were entering a competition to design a new Sydney Opera House. Sketch your design, incorporating interesting features that you think would impress the judges.

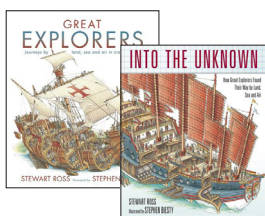
In small groups, create a model of a building using only paddle pop sticks and glue. Think about how to make your building strong enough to stand up by itself. Present your model to the class and explain which structural features worked and which didn't.

Think of a famous landmark building that is not featured in *The Story of Buildings* and research it online or in your school library. Write a one page report which covers the who, why, when, where and how of the building. Illustrate your report with photos or drawings.

Visit your school library and look for books on the Egyptian pyramids, the Pyramid of Djoser in particular. Compare the information on pages 18-19 of *The Story of Buildings* to the information in the sources from the library. Write a report on how these different sources deal with the same issue. Is the information the same or different? Why do you think that is?

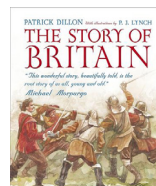
Research author Patrick Dillon and illustrator Stephen Biesty. What other books have they written/illustrated? Are their other books similar or different to *The Story of Buildings*? Choose your favourite book and present it to the class, explaining why you chose it.

## Other great titles from Patrick Dillon and Stephen Biesty



**Great Explorers**  
Author: Stewart Ross  
Illustrator: Stephen Biesty  
PB 9781406348668  
AU\$19.95/NZ\$24.99

**Into the Unknown**  
HB 9781406304794  
AU\$39.95/NZ\$44.99



**The Story of Britain**  
Author: Patrick Dillon  
Illustrator: P.J. Lynch  
PB 9781406348606  
AU\$19.95/NZ\$22.99  
HB 9781406311921  
AU\$39.95/NZ\$51.99