



## RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English; History; Geography (natural and built environments); Society and Culture; Art and Design; Civics and Politics

## THEMES

- Australian History
- Australian Geography
- Australian Culture
- Australian Identity

## PREPARED BY

Jean Yates

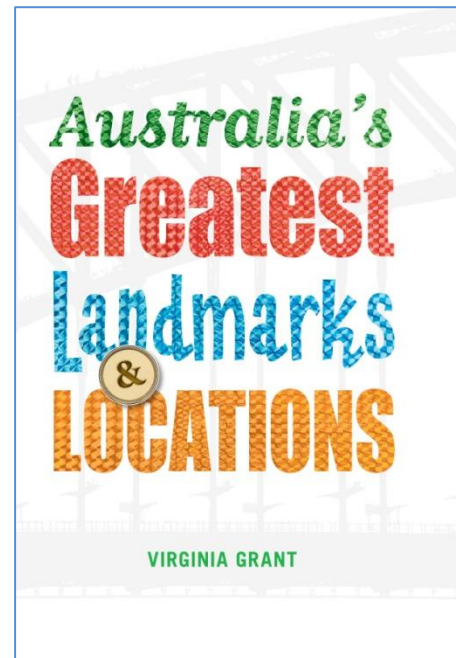
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## Australia's Greatest Landmarks and Locations Virginia Grant

### PRE-READING

1. List 10 significant places of interest in Australia.
2. Explain why you chose these locations.
3. What is the population of Australia today?
4. What five words would you use to describe Australia physically?
5. For each state, brainstorm what you know about the region before reading.

### ENGLISH

1. Consider the writing style. How has the author managed to achieve a blend of facts and interest?
2. Choose a passage that is particularly well written or interesting and consider how this has been achieved.
3. Research another feature of one of these locations (or choose one mentioned in the text but not discussed in great detail) and write a short description similar to those in the book (e.g. one of the Harbour Islands p.7).
4. How do the illustrations help to support and further explain the text?

## HISTORY

1. Why were the 17th and 18th centuries such a time of exploration?
2. What nationalities were exploring at the time?
3. How might Australia be a totally different place if it had been settled by the Dutch or the French rather than by the English?
4. What is meant by the term 'penal colony'?
5. Why was England looking for a penal colony in the late 18th century?
6. How did the fact that Australia was a penal colony affect its early settlement?
7. What did Sydney look like in 1788? What was life like in the early settlement?
8. Why was Tasmania chosen as the second penal settlement? Were you surprised that Hobart was the second settlement? Why were the most hardened of prisoners sent there?
9. Why was Sydney such a successful penal settlement, but Maria Island was not? (p.77)
10. What is a convict probation station? Why was Maria Island so successful in this regard?
11. Why was the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge so important during the Depression? It was referred to as 'the iron lung'. What does this expression mean? (p.9)
12. Why would this have helped to make the bridge such a loved landmark today?
13. Why was Canberra selected as the nation's capital? Why wasn't Sydney named as the capital when it was the site of the first European settlement? What does this reveal about the rivalry between Melbourne and Sydney?
14. Canberra houses the Australian War Memorial to honour those who have fought and died in war. How many wars has Australia been involved in? Why do we engage in overseas wars?
15. Did you know that Darwin and Sydney were both under attack during WWII? Why did this happen?
16. How did many places and landmarks get their names?
17. Many of the original buildings in Australia are very English or European in style. Why would this be the case? How have they changed over the years?
18. Why was Perth settled separately from the rest of Australia, rather than just colonised as the original settlement expanded? What does this reveal about Perth's location?
19. Given that Perth was established by free settlers, why were convicts deliberately brought over to Perth? What does this suggest about the role the convicts played in the success of other settlements? (p.113)
20. Why would this not have been a popular decision?
21. What evidence is there of Indigenous people being in Australia long before the European settlers arrived?
22. What impact did the arrival of the European settlers have on the Indigenous people?
23. Why were the Indigenous people unable to hold out against the newcomers?
24. What is meant by the term 'native title'?
25. What significant areas of land have been given back to the Indigenous people?
26. How have Australian attitudes towards this issue changed since the Mabo act in 1993? (p.173)
27. Why was Rottnest Island used as a prison for Indigenous people? (p.116)
28. Read the Dreamtime story of Kandimalal. In what way does it reveal the Indigenous people's understanding of astronomy and events such as meteorite crashes?
29. Australia is referred to as a young country. In what way is this not true? What does the statement reveal about who writes a nation's history?

## GEOGRAPHY

1. Why do 80% of Australia's inhabitants live within 100 km of the coast?
2. How do natural features such as harbours, water sources and so on affect a city's settlement?
3. Why was Sydney the initial settlement in Australia? What natural features did it have that made it ideal?
4. What is the definition of a city? Why does an area have to be declared as a city?
5. Canberra is described as a 'planned urban centre' (p.26). What does this mean? What are the advantages in being able to design a purpose-built centre rather than have it evolve as most early cities did?
6. Why does Australia own territory in Antarctica?
7. In what way is it a significant area for research?



## THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1. What would you expect to find in a capital city?
2. Why do most capital cities have significant buildings in them?
3. Is it important that buildings are not only practical but also well designed, iconic structures?
4. What buildings would you expect to find in a nation's capital city that you wouldn't find in other cities?
5. How can a building such as the Sydney Opera House shape a city, its way of life, its reputation, etc?
6. How can factors such as climate, location, etc. be seen to influence the buildings that are constructed in different capital cities?
7. Why might so many of these significant structures have been the result of competitions for the best design?
8. Why is it so important for capital cities to have museums, art galleries, libraries, etc? How would a country's culture be affected if all of these things were not preserved and made available to the people?
9. Why is it important to have museums, art galleries and libraries that cater for children as well as adults?

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Why have so many areas in Australia been declared National Parks or reserves? What does this suggest about our understanding and respect of the environment?
2. What is meant by Gondwanan times? What was Australia like at this time?
3. How have erosion, rising sea levels and tectonic plate movements shaped Australia?
4. How does the introduction of a new species impact upon the natural environment? (p.84)
5. Why are places like Macquarie Island, the Grampians and the Daintree Rainforest so significant? What threats do they face?
6. What is the significance of the discovery of fossils in the Flinders Ranges? How are fossils preserved? Why do scientists and geologists find them so informative?
7. Why does the water in Lake Eyre become increasingly salty as it dries out? What impact does this have on the flora and fauna? (p.107)

8. Choose one of the following significant natural landmarks in Australia and research its formation and importance:
  - Uluru
  - The Bungle Bungles
  - The 12 Apostles
  - The Jenolan Caves
  - The Devils Marbles
  - Katherine Gorge / Nitmiluk Gorge
  - Kings Canyon
  - Fraser Island
9. How have the following natural resources shaped Australia's history and settlement?
  - Gold
  - Opals
  - Pearls
  - Whales
  - Seals

## SOCIETY AND CULTURE

1. Many of Australia's landmarks and events are loved because of the way they reflect typical Australian attitudes (mateship, anti-authority, people power, freedom of speech, equality, etc.). How do the following reflect Australian attitudes?
  - The Sydney Harbour Bridge
  - Bondi Beach
  - Ballarat / The Eureka Rebellion
  - The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme
  - Glenrowan / Ned Kelly
2. Australia has long suffered from the 'cultural cringe' and has been believed to lack culture. Given the number of cultural buildings listed in this book, would you agree that it lacks culture?
3. How can Australia's culture be seen to have changed in the 200+ years of European settlement through the different buildings and structures?
4. Australia is known as a multi-cultural society. What does this mean? Why have people from different regions come to Australia (e.g. Chinese, British and Europeans)?
5. How have our attitudes towards migrants changed over the years? (If indeed they have.)



6. What factors might have influenced where the different nationalities settled in Australia?

## ART AND DESIGN

1. Research one of these Australian artists and write a short booklet discussing them and their work.
  - Pro Hart
  - Arthur Streeton
  - Tom Roberts
  - Margaret Preston
  - Grace Cossington Smith
  - Sidney Nolan
  - Arthur Boyd
  - John Olsen
  - Margaret Olley
2. What other highly regarded Australian artists would you add to this list?
3. How do their works reflect aspects of Australia?
4. Why would quokkas originally have been thought to be rats? (p.115). Consider the early illustrations of kangaroos. Do they look like kangaroos as we know them? What animal do they resemble? Why might English artists have drawn them in this way? How do these illustrations and descriptions support the idea that we see things through our own cultural references or understandings?

## CIVICS AND POLITICS

1. Why does Parliament House need room for the Senate and for the House of Representatives? What do these terms mean?
2. Why do we have other countries' embassies in our country and have Australian ambassadors posted overseas? What does an embassy do? Do you agree it is important to have them?
3. Why was the Indigenous tent embassy set up? What does this tell us about Indigenous rights in Australia?
4. Who was the first Indigenous person elected to Federal Parliament in Australia?
5. Why is it appropriate that the National Library of Australia is reminiscent of the Parthenon in Greece? How has our political system been influenced by the Ancient Greeks?

## VOCABULARY

- diversity
- iconic
- penal settlement
- antiquities
- sovereignty
- stalactites
- stalagmites
- artificial reef
- preservation
- biodiversity
- endemic
- colonisation
- urban
- rural
- *terra nullius*



## ACTIVITIES

1. Hold a tourism expo that encourages people to travel through specific areas in Australia. Choose an area and create a booklet that outlines a 5-day tour of that area. List any significant landmarks and important facts about the region.
2. Create themed brochures on Australia that focus on: natural landmarks; iconic buildings; convict influences; beaches; adventure, etc.
3. Choose another landmark not included in this book, research it and write it up to add to the book.
4. Find illustrations of the places, animals and landmarks mentioned in the book that are not already illustrated.
5. Select the landmark you believe to be the most iconic representative of Australia and argue your decision.
6. Select and research some of the less serious, but still well recognised landmarks in Australia, especially all the 'big' structures: the Big Banana, the Big Prawn, the Big Pineapple, etc. Add another chapter that details each of these landmarks.
7. Watch some old Tourism Australia advertisements. Consider how well they depict Australia. Create a storyboard for a new advertisement that you think represents Australia more effectively and justify your choices.
8. Run a competition to design significant cultural icons that represent each of Australia's capital cities and its surrounding area.



## FURTHER READING FROM RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



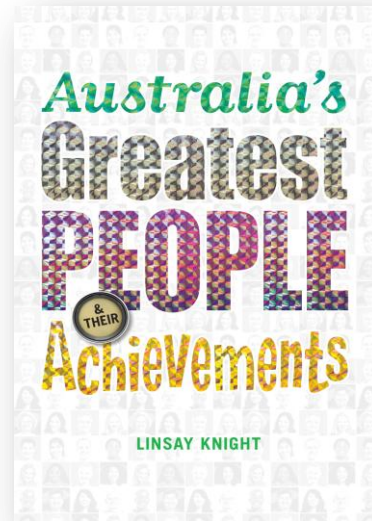
### *Australia's Greatest Inventions and Innovations*

by Christopher Cheng  
and Lindsay Knight

**Why this story?** Written in conjunction with the Powerhouse Museum, this is a comprehensive guide to Australia's most innovative inventions as well as their amazing creators. Full of facts, photos and fun surprises for curious kids and grown-ups alike.

In *Australia's Greatest Inventions and Innovations*, you will find out about our nation's most ingenious inventions, their makers, and how to turn a bright idea into a useful creation.

[Read a free chapter of Australia's Greatest Inventions and Innovations on Scribd](#)



### *Australia's Greatest People and Their Achievements*

by Lindsay Knight

**Why this story?** Filled with information, interesting fact pages, breakout boxes and loads of illustrations, this is a fun and inspiring book for people of all ages, and especially children aged 12+, to dip into.

From business to science, politics to sport, science to the arts, and entertainment to social justice, we are a country of achievers. In *Australia's Greatest People and their Achievements*, you will discover many stories about great Australians who have helped shaped our nation.

[Teachers' resources available](#)



## WORKSHEET 1:

CITY	POPULATION / SIZE	NAMED AFTER...	DATE OF SETTLEMENT	TYPE OF SETTLEMENT (FREE / PENAL)
SYDNEY				
CANBERRA				
MELBOURNE				
HOBART				
ADELAIDE				
PERTH				
DARWIN				
BRISBANE				





## WORKSHEET 2:

Match the statement in the left column with the correct answer from the right column.

Designed by Jørn Utzon	The Great Barrier Reef
Formerly known as Ayers Rock	Mabo
Designed by Walter Burley Griffin	Cradle Mountain
Animals mistaken for furry rats	The Nullarbor Plain
The location of the second settlement in Australia	Darwin
A famous Sydney Beach	The Pinnacles
The highest mountain peak on mainland Australia	Fraser Island
The official home of the Prime Minister in Canberra	Mount Wellington
A place made famous by the Gold Rushes and the Eureka rebellion	Meteorite collision
An island south of Melbourne known for its fur seals, penguins and motor racing	Uluru
Limestone rocks along the Great Ocean Road	Lake Eyre
The mountain that overlooks Hobart	The Torres Strait Islands
A popular climbing and walking park in Tasmania	The Pinnacles
South Australia's largest mountain range	Broome
The setting for Colin Thiele's novel <i>Stormboy</i>	Quokkas
The opal capital of the world	The Twelve Apostles
A huge lake that only fills once or twice a century	Hobart
The location of the longest straight stretch of highway in the world	The Lodge
Limestone pillars located north of Perth	The Coorong
A well-known pearling port	Mount Kosciuszko
The reason for the Wolfe Creek crater	Ballarat
A city that has twice been rebuilt	Canberra
A collection of ancient granite boulders	Bondi
The capital city closest to Darwin	Coober Pedy
The largest sand island in the world	The Sydney Opera House
The only living thing on the planet that can be seen from outer space	The Flinders Ranges
The name given to the famous native title case of 1992	The Devil's Marbles
The only part of Australia that shares a border with another country	Phillip Island





## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Australia's Greatest Landmarks and Locations	Virginia Grant	9780857983886	6–8	\$24.99		
Australia's Greatest Inventions and Innovations	Christopher Cheng and Linsay Knight	9781742755649	6–8	\$29.99		
Australia's Greatest People and Their Achievements	Linsay Knight	9780857980205	6–8	\$24.99		
TOTAL						

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