Sydney - A story of change

Stage 2
History: Year 3

Topic: Community and remembrance

Students learn about identity and diversity in both a local and broader context. Moving from the heritage of their local area, students explore the historical features and diversity of their community as represented in symbols and emblems of significance, and celebrations and commemorations, both locally and in other places around the world.

Key inquiry question #1: How has our community changed? What features have been lost and what features have been retained?

Featured Content

Animation: Costumes of the Australasians

Video of Animation: Costumes of the Australasians

[1]
To download the Costumes of the Australiasians transcript, click here [2].

Content summary

One important example of change over time in the local community, region or state/territory, e.g. transport, work, education, natural and built environment, daily life (ACHHK061)

The history of a significant person, building, site or part of the natural environment in the local community and what it reveals about the past (ACHHK044)

Students:

- brainstorm what aspects of the past can be seen in the local area
- identify a significant building, site or part of the natural environment in the local community and discuss what they reveal about the past and why they are considered important
- investigate an aspect of local history
- develop a narrative on their chosen aspect of local history which focuses on the remains of the past

In this unit of work the term ‘Indigenous’ is used to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Background notes

It is difficult to understand now, but a long time ago the city we know as Sydney did not exist. The Cadigal People were the first people to live around the harbour where Sydney now exists. The earliest European painting of ‘Cadi’ (the Aboriginal word for Sydney Cove) in 1788 by the Port Jackson Painter shows a beautiful, thick bush and rock landscape that continued right down to the water’s edge. With the arrival of the First Fleet in January 1788 the entire landscape was changed forever as the convicts and marines chopped down trees and built huts, houses and government buildings around the harbour.

The simple bark huts built by the convicts were soon replaced by brick buildings; wharves were built for the big sailing ships that docked in the harbour and they were replaced by the ferries of Circular Quay; dirt tracks for carts and carriages eventually developed into paved roads and highways.

Today we are surrounded by enormous structures that seem to have always been there. We take for granted that the city of Sydney has massive skyscrapers, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. Today we can drive across the harbour in a few minutes on the Harbour Bridge, but until 1932 people had to travel across the harbour by row boat or ferry.

Let’s look at the city of Sydney as it has changed over time. Can you imagine what it might look like 200 years from now?

Student Activities
Activity 1

**Sydney: a story of change** [3]

Students use photos and paintings from the collections of the State Library to identify the main features of the cultural landscape of Sydney and describe how Sydney has changed over time.

Number of set tasks: 2

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**NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum History K-10**

- Outcomes
- Historical skills
- Historical concepts
Outcomes

A student:

- HT1-2 identifies and describes significant people, events, places and sites in the local community over time
- HT1-4 demonstrates skills of historical inquiry and communication

Historical skills

Students:

Comprehension: chronology, terms and concepts

- use historical terms (ACHHS065, ACHHS082)

Analysis and use of sources

- locate relevant information from sources provided (ACHHS068, ACHHS084, ACHHS215, ACHHS216)

Research

- pose a range of questions about the past (ACHHS067, ACHHS083)

Explanation and communication

- develop texts, particularly narratives (ACHHS070, ACHHS086)
- use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies (ACHHS071, ACHHS087)

Historical concepts

- Continuity and change: some things change over time and some things remain the same
- Cause and effect: events, decisions or developments in the past that produce later actions, results or effects

LAC

Learning across the curriculum

- Literacy
- Work and enterprise
- Sustainability
Student Activities

- Activity #1

Activity #1

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Related content

Eora [4]
Delve deep into the stories of Indigenous Sydney before European settlement, created through a close and innovative interrogation of the European records of early colonisation.


Links