

EDUCATION PROGRAM : PORT ARTHUR

**PRE LESSON PLAN Port Arthur**

**Life at Port Arthur (Primary, 50 mins)**

**Learning Objectives :**

To understand about living and working conditions 1830-77

To know why Port Arthur was a good location as prison

**Skills required:**

Historical questions and research

Analysis and use of sources

Comprehension

Explanation and communication

Perspectives and interpretation

**FIND ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:**

What was life like in Victorian period?

Who lived at Port Arthur in 1830s?

What makes a good location for a prison and why?

What trades were important in past (1830s) and at a prison?

What would their diet been like for convicts and soldiers?

What technology and medicine was known about and had been invented in early 19<sup>th</sup> Century? (think about electricity and hospitals)

**INQUIRY QUESTIONS:**

What sources, places can we use to get this information?

How can we know if our information is correct?

**WHAT TO DO:**

Find out answers to questions by doing following:

Read description of Victorian life in Charles Dickens's book 'Oliver Twist'. Read Port Arthur useful facts on website.

Look at location map of Port Arthur and label important points and reasons a prison was set up.

Research, using books and internet, to find -jobs, food eaten, important discoveries and inventions of past.

**Learning materials and resources:**

Access to internet, Port Arthur website. Books or People to ask questions to gather information on:

- Trades/jobs : Cooper, Carpenter, Shipwright, Blacksmith, Nailer, Shoemaker, Tailor, Stonemason, Brickmaker.
- Food eaten in past
- Inventions and discoveries. Consider: Health, Medicine, Electricity, Technology, Transport, Communications.



EDUCATION PROGRAM : PORT ARTHUR

**ACTIVITY: Educational Tour Port Arthur**

Life at Port Arthur ( Primary, 50 mins)

**Learning Objectives :**

To understand about living and working conditions  
1830-77

To know why Port Arthur was a good location as prison

**Skills required:**

Listening

Following and  
understanding instructions

Memory and interpretation

Comprehension

Answer questions

**Guided Activity**

A guided Tour to get students actively exploring,  
thinking, observing, questioning and talking about life  
and conditions at Port Arthur in 1830s.

Students should then be able to answer questions:

- Why was Port Arthur prison located here?
- What trades/jobs were practised here at Port Arthur?
- Why was this prison different to other prisons?

**On site at Port Arthur  
learning materials and  
resources provided:**

Guide

**Playing card-** linked to  
individual convict. **Use this  
to gather information for  
post activity.**

Access to Visitor Centre

Cruise (around Isle of Dead  
and Point Puer, Boys Prison)

**Optional self guided tours**

Amazing Race

Race through Time



EDUCATION PROGRAM : PORT ARTHUR

POST LESSON PLAN: **Port Arthur**

Port Arthur Prison or School (Primary, 50 mins)

**Learning Objectives :**

To understand about living and working conditions at Port Arthur.

To know why Port Arthur location was chosen.

To understand why it was a different and to some it was a prison others like a school.

**Skills required:**

Memory and interpretation

Comprehension

Explanation and communication

Creative writing

**WHAT TO DO:**

With your convict name. (card from 'Pack of Thieves' given to you at Port Arthur)

Remember what you did and where you worked at Port Arthur.

Make up story to talk about your time at Port Arthur. **Did you**

- work hard- learn a trade?
- learn to read and write use the books in the library?
- try to escape or were you lazy?
- get punished- what way?- lashes, leg irons, solitary confinement.
- end up in the hospital or asylum?
- get your ticket of leave?
- What did you eat?
- How did you entertain yourself?

**Learning materials and resources:**

**Playing Card** from Port Arthur (reference book '**Pack of Thieves**') and notes made regarding convict: name, convicted for what, where they worked at Port Arthur and anything else said about them.

Use 'Port Arthur People' Check your facts right, research:-

- Trades : Cooper, Carpenter, Shipwright, Blacksmith, Nailer, Shoemaker, Tailor, Stonemason, Brickmaker.
- Food eaten in past
- Inventions and discoveries: Consider Health, Electricity, Transport, Communication