

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE

Curriculum Guide



Port Arthur Historic Site is a place of complex history and compelling stories. It is a site of global significance and one of the 11 places that together form the UNESCO Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property, representing the forced migration of convicts to Australia.

Between 1833 and 1877 Port Arthur was a self-sufficient industrial prison where convicts were employed in iron work, bronze casting, leather work and brickmaking, as well as constructing small boats and ships for the colonial government. Several penal philosophies were trialled here, including systems of isolation, classification, the separation of boys and men, and psychological terror, which are reflected in the extensive number of structures that survive from this period.

Our site and education programs align with the Australian Curriculum primarily in the areas of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) and History. The following information identifies curriculum links with Version 8.4 and Version 9.0 of the Australian Curriculum. It is intended as a guide only and includes suggested elaborations that relate to the Port Arthur Historic Site.

YEAR 4 HASS	
V8.4	V9.0
Knowledge and understanding: History Stories of the First Fleet, including reasons for the journey, who travelled to Australia, and their experiences following arrival (ACHASSK085)	Knowledge and understanding: History The causes of the establishment of the first British colony in Australia in 1788 (AC9HS4K02)
Elaborations Investigating the reasons for the colonisation of Australia, including establishing a British base in the southern hemisphere, access to resources, and the need for a penal colony. Examining the range of crimes punishable by transportation and the demographics of convicts transported to Australia. Exploring the treatment of prisoners at the time and approaches to punishment and reform.	

YEAR 5 HASS	
V8.4	V9.0
<p>Knowledge and understanding: History</p> <p>Reasons (economic, political and social) for the establishment of British colonies in Australia after 1800 (ACHASSK106)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: History</p> <p>The economic, political and social causes of the establishment of British colonies in Australia after 1800 (AC9HS5K01)</p>
<p>Elaborations</p> <p>Investigating the reasons for the establishment of Van Dieman’s Land as a penal colony.</p> <p>Examining the issues within British society that led to the establishment of colonies in Australia, such as unemployment, poverty, overcrowded cities, high crime rates, and the British class system.</p> <p>Examining the economic considerations, such as access to natural resources, for establishing a penal station at Port Arthur and its development as an industrial prison.</p> <p>Discussing the ideas behind systems of convict punishment and reform in Van Dieman’s Land and specifically at Port Arthur, including classification, separation, and physical and psychological punishment.</p>	
<p>Knowledge and understanding: History</p> <p>The nature of convict or colonial presence, including the factors that influenced patterns of development, aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants (including Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) and how the environment changed (ACHASSK107)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: History</p> <p>The impact of the development of British colonies in Australia on the lives of First Nations Australians, the colonists and convicts and on the natural environments (AC9HS5K02)</p>
<p>Elaborations</p> <p>Investigating the daily life of convicts at Port Arthur including work, punishment, living conditions, clothing, food, and healthcare.</p> <p>Comparing the life of military personnel and civilians at Port Arthur to that of the convicts.</p> <p>Reflecting on the changes to the natural environment caused by European settlement of the Tasman Peninsula, including logging, mining, and farming, and the exploitation of resources.</p>	

<p>Knowledge and understanding: History</p> <p>The impact of a significant development or event on an Australian colony (ACHASSK108)</p> <p>The reasons people migrated to Australia and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony (ACHASSK109)</p> <p>The role that a significant individual or group played in shaping a colony (ACHASSK110)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: History</p> <p>The role of a significant individual or group, including First Nations Australians and those who migrated to Australia, in the development of events in an Australian colony (AC9HS5K03)</p>
<p>Elaborations</p> <p>Examining the influence of key figures in the development of Port Arthur, including Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Arthur (1784–1854), Charles O’Hara Booth (1800–51), William Thomas Napier Champ (1808–92), and Thomas James Lemprière (1796–1852).</p> <p>Investigating the contribution of Port Arthur to government industry, such brickmaking, shipbuilding, metalworking, and leather work.</p>	

YEAR 9 HISTORY	
V8.4	V9.0
<p>Overview: The making of the modern world</p> <p>The nature and extent of the movement of peoples in the period (slaves, convicts and settlers) (ACOKFH015)</p> <p>The extent of European imperial expansion and different responses, including in the Asian region (ACOKFH017)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: Making and transforming the Australian nation (1750-1914)</p> <p>The causes and effects of European imperial expansion and the movement of peoples in the late 18th century and early 19th century, and the different responses to colonization and migration (AC9HH9K01)</p> <p>The key social, cultural, economic and political changes and their significance in the development of Australian society during the period (AC9HH9K02)</p>
<p>Depth study: The movement of peoples (1750 – 1901)</p> <p>The nature and significance of the Industrial Revolution and how it affected living and working conditions, including within Australia (ACOKFH016)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: The Industrial Revolution and the movement of peoples (1750–1900)</p> <p>The social, economic, political, technological and/or environmental causes and effects of the Industrial Revolution on Europe in the late 18th and 19th century (AC9HH9K13)</p>

<p>The influence of the Industrial Revolution on the movement of peoples throughout the world, including the transatlantic slave trade and convict transportation (ACDSEH018)</p>	<p>The changing population movements and settlement patterns during the period 1750 to 1900 (AC9HH9K014)</p>
<p>Elaborations</p> <p>Describing the reasons for changing population movements, particularly the growth of cities as people moved from the country to urban centres to find employment.</p> <p>Examining the causes of the movement of peoples to Van Dieman’s Land as part of British imperial expansion, particularly the forced migration of convicts.</p>	
<p>Depth study: The movement of peoples (1750 – 1901)</p> <p>Experiences of slaves, convicts and free settlers upon departure, their journey abroad, and their reactions on arrival, including the Australian experience (ACDSEH083)</p> <p>Changes in the way of life of a group(s) of people who moved to Australia in this period, such as free settlers on the frontier in Australia (ACDSEH084)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: Making and transforming the Australian nation (1750-1914)</p> <p>The different experiences and perspectives of colonisers, settlers and First Nations Australians and the impact of these experiences on changes to Australian society’s ideas, beliefs and values (AC9HH9K06)</p>
<p>Elaborations</p> <p>Investigating the lives of convicts sent to Port Arthur and their experiences at the site.</p> <p>Exploring the different perspectives of people and groups that lived and visited Port Arthur during the convict era, including convicts, military personnel, civilian administrators and their wives, medical officers, and clergymen.</p>	
<p>Depth study: The movement of peoples (1750 – 1901)</p> <p>The short and long-term impacts of the movement of peoples during this period (ACDSEH085)</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding: Making and transforming the Australian nation (1750-1914)</p> <p>The causes and effects of European contact and extension of settlement, including their impact on the First Nations Peoples of Australia (AC9HH9K03)</p>
<p>Elaborations</p> <p>Understanding transportation as the forced migration of people to Australia.</p>	

Understanding that European settlement of Australia, with particular focus on Van Dieman's Land, resulted in the displacement and dispossession of First Nations people.

Examining the shifts and changes to the population and demographics of Van Dieman's Land during the 19th century with the arrival of convicts and free settlers.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION: OUTDOOR LEARNING

V9.0

Humanities and Social Sciences

Port Arthur Historic Site is a large outdoor site comprising many historic buildings and ruins, a harbour and dockyard, gardens, and other features. During their visit, students learn how the site was used in the past and how this changed over time. Through the presentation and interpretation provided of the site, they can imagine what it looked like and felt like in the past and understand what people in the past experienced in this place. They understand the value of the site to present and future generations and how Port Arthur is protected and conserved as a World Heritage Site.

RESOURCES

Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority (ACARA), *Australian Curriculum Version 8.4*, <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>, accessed April 2024.

— *Australian Curriculum Version 9.0*, <https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>, accessed April 2024.