



ART GALLERY *of* NEW SOUTH WALES

Let's go bush: our Australia

This Art Adventure Tour introduces young children to the Gallery's Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections and provides an opportunity to discover the people and places and the way artists respond in unique ways to the diverse environments of Australia.

Let's go bush makes visual representations of Australian landscape and culture relevant and accessible to children through comparisons to their own environment, knowledge, imagination and experiences and introduces them to different ways of seeing. This tour is the perfect complement to other Key Learning Areas in the K-6 classroom, particularly HSIE, English and Science & Technology and as a starting point for exploring visual culture both in the Gallery and in everyday life.

Through an exciting and creative range of interactive strategies children will:

- Explore how artists create art from their own personal experiences and how they interpret their environment.
- Experience the diversity of the Australian landscape by looking at representations of cities, towns, the bush, deserts, mountains, harbours and oceans and the people and animals that inhabit them.
- Focus on between four and six selected artworks for an in-depth investigation; listening to stories, looking carefully, responding, analysing, interpreting and sharing opinions and ideas. (If appropriate, art-making and/or role-playing activities may also be included).
- Discover the many types of people, both historical and contemporary, such as migrants, explorers, rulers, convicts, bush rangers and so forth and the role myths, stories and legends have in shaping our culture.
- Learn about a range of techniques used by artists to create artworks and compare and contrast styles, themes and approaches.

Teachers may request a theme that complements their classroom activities in the Creative Arts and across the Key Learning Areas, such as wet and dry environments, places we know and water. We are, however, unable to focus on one particular artist due to the number of works that may or may not be on display at any one time.

Other possible themes could be: the harbour; the beach; the city; transport; families; people and places; animals.

Tours can also be adapted to cater for children with special needs such as ESL groups, children with learning difficulties or with disabilities.

Preparing for your visit:

Make sure you have read the confirmation letter from the Guides and have a good understanding of what you will need to do upon arrival and that you have looked at the Gallery's website for the Excursion Risk Management Assessment information.

It is a good idea to prepare for your visit to the Gallery with your class through a range of activities and discussions so the visit can become an integrated component of your classroom practice. The following suggestions are ideas you might like to consider:

Pre-visit activities:

Discuss the difference between looking at art in books and on the internet compared to seeing the real thing in a Gallery. What are the children expecting? What do they hope to see? Write down their responses and do a comparative study after their visit to see what surprised them etc.

Look at some of the Gallery's Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections in books or on the internet; if possible link your research to a theme you are studying in class. Choose a work that you find particularly interesting and find out more about the artist, where and when it was painted.

www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/browse

Create a word bank or glossary of words to describe different landscapes and environments in Australia.

Look at the environment around your school and list key features and landmarks. Make drawings and collages to show these particular characteristics.

Post-visit activities:

Organise the class into the groups they were in for their visit. Ask each group to present to the class which artworks they saw and which ones were their favourites and why.

Create your own exhibition or display of artworks by the children, inspired by their visit to the Gallery. Imagery could be taken from what they saw on their journey to the Gallery, some of the artworks seen on the excursion and where they live.

Use the Gallery's *MyVirtualGallery* website and create your own landscape exhibition using artworks from the Gallery's collection; exhibitions could be themed to link to classroom practice.

www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/ed/myvirtualgallery

Useful Resources:

The Art Gallery of New South Wales Handbook ISBN 0-7313-8948-4

Australian Art in the Art Gallery of New South Wales by Barry Pearce 2000, ISBN 0-7347-6308-5

How to talk to children about art by Francoise Barbe-Gall, Francis Lincoln Ltd. 2005, ISBN 0-7112-2388-2

The art book for children published by Phaidon 2005, ISBN 0-7148-4511-6

The Usbourne Book of Art Skills/Ideas/Projects by Fiona Watt, ISBN 0-7460-6824-7, 0-7460-6406-3, 0-7460-6828-X