

highlights

When you arrive at the Museum, we will briefly orient you and your students. Then you are free to explore in teacher-guided groups – please stay with your students throughout your visit.

	FOR STUDENTS	MORE DETAIL
THE HALL	<p>The Museum building was designed to represent the complexities of the Australian nation. Imagine every story that the Museum tells as a thread of a giant knot, and regard The Hall as the space around it.</p> <p>How is Australia represented in the paintings on the roof?</p>	<p>The Museum architects saw a giant knot as a metaphor for the strands that tie Australians together. The Hall represents this knot, as if concrete was poured over a rope knot, then the rope was removed, leaving the Hall's internal shape.</p> <p>Outside, the large roller-coaster loop points to the heart of our country, Uluru, and in the other direction to Parliament House, the political centre of our country.</p>
OLD NEW LAND	<p><i>Old New Land</i> explores our relationship with the Australian land – how have people encountered, lived with and understood land over time?</p> <p>What impact have introduced species like rabbits and buffalo had on the environment?</p> <p>How did the rabbit plague help Australians in the early 20th century?</p> <p>Find the Diprotodon skeleton – this is a replica. Why would a museum use a replica?</p>	<p>Introduced animals – can kill native animals and compete with them for food, destroy native plants, and degrade culturally significant Indigenous sites.</p> <p>Rabbits – during the Great Depression rabbits could be sold for money. Rabbit meat was often served for dinner and the fur could be used to make blankets.</p> <p>Diprotodon – lived in grasslands in central Australia and became extinct 10–20,000 years ago. Replicas are used: if the real thing is too fragile to display, or absent, or to display it in many places, or so visitors can touch!</p>
ETERNITY	<p><i>Eternity</i> relays personal stories of 50 ordinary and extraordinary Australians. Their lives, emotions and experiences offer a glimpse into our past, present and future.</p> <p>Choose a story and identify its link to the depicted emotion. How does the object on display figure in that story?</p> <p>What story would you share about your own life?</p>	<p>Each story in the <i>Eternity</i> gallery is represented by one object. The objects on display are often of great significance to the storyteller and/or embody an aspect of the story.</p> <p>Students can share their own stories at the far end of the gallery or on our website after your visit.</p>
LANDMARKS	<p><i>Landmarks</i> explores history through stories of people and places. Take you on a trip around Australia from colonial foundations at Sydney Cove to the Trans-Australia Railway linking Western Australia to the eastern states.</p> <p>Explore the history of your capital city or find a story of a place near your home.</p> <p>Find Phar Lap's heart – how did Phar Lap help connect the nation?</p>	<p>Phar Lap's heart – Between 1928 and 1932 Phar Lap raced to victory in 37 of his 51 races. Regarded as a 'battler' who beat the odds, he was embraced by Australians enduring the Great Depression.</p> <p>Discover more at nma.gov.au.</p>

Where our stories live

AUSTRALIAN JOURNEYS	<p><i>Australian Journeys</i> explores the personal stories of migrants, travellers and traders and how their objects have connected places in Australia with places around the world. People have journeyed to and from the Australian continent for millennia. Each year almost 11 million people arrive in Australia and the same number depart.</p> <p>What are some reasons people migrate to Australia? What are some reasons Australians have emigrated overseas?</p> <p>Find Captain Cook's ballast – what might it be? What does the arrow on the ballast represent?</p> <p>Find the convict love tokens – what would you inscribe on one, and who would you give it to?</p>	<p>Reasons to come include: to start a new life, flee war, for work, to live closer to family members.</p> <p>Reasons to leave include: love of a different country, to live closer to family members, for work.</p> <p>Captain Cook's ballast – iron used to control the buoyancy and stability of the <i>Endeavour</i>. This ballast was thrown overboard in June 1770 when Cook's ship struck a reef along the east coast of Australia. The crew needed to lighten the load to sail free. The broad arrow or pheon identified property of the British monarch. It was also used on convict uniforms.</p> <p>Convict love tokens – also known as leaden hearts, are coins engraved with information and messages of affection. Made while awaiting transportation, they were given to a loved one as a memento.</p>
FIRST AUSTRALIANS	<p><i>Gallery of First Australians</i> is our largest gallery, housing over 10,000 objects.</p> <p>Upper level – features various communities and includes a welcome space, reflecting the tradition of welcoming a visitor to your country.</p> <p>Find the fibre containers – what materials do you think some of the bags and baskets are made out of? How might the different materials and shapes affect a basket's use?</p> <p>Find the stone tools – what materials are the stone tools made out of? How do you think they were made?</p> <p>Lower level – focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history since 1788.</p> <p>Find the breastplates – why do you think these breastplates were presented to certain Aboriginal people from 1815 to 1946? How do you think Aboriginal people might have reacted to receiving a breastplate or watching a member of their family receive one?</p>	<p>Fibre containers – are usually made by women, but both men and women use them. String bags are made from native grasses and used for storage, transport and as sieves in preparing food. Baskets are made from native grasses, seaweed (kelp), bark and other plant fibres. Some can store drinking water. Special fibre containers are also used in ceremonies.</p> <p>Stone tools – are usually made by men but some are used by both men and women. As well as stone, they can comprise bone, wood, sinew (from the tail or hind leg of a kangaroo) and resin from the sap of native plants. There are four main techniques for making stone tools: grinding (rubbing together), hammer-dressing (gently tapping), percussion flaking (striking) and pressure flaking (pressing wood or bone against the stone to remove flakes).</p> <p>Breastplates – also known as gorgets or king plates, were presented to Aboriginal people for faithful service to early explorers, as a reward for saving a life or to help recognise stockmen and trackers. Some people considered it an honour and wore a breastplate with pride. Others regarded breastplates as a further insult from the non-Indigenous population.</p>
GARDEN OF DREAMS	<p>The <i>Garden of Australian Dreams</i> is an artistic exploration of our nation and encourages visitors to take a symbolic journey across Australia. For every step you take across the stylised map you travel the equivalent of 100 kilometres!</p> <p>The garden is full of symbols: what do you think the lines on the ground represent? Can you identify any famous Australian symbols or icons? What do you think the large white concrete structure represents?</p> <p>Please ask one of our friendly hosts for more information about symbols in the Garden.</p>	<p>Lines that cross the map include surveyors' reference marks, road maps, the dingo fence, and Indigenous nation and language boundaries.</p> <p>A large white concrete structure represents the great Australian dream of owning your own home on a 1/4 acre block with a swimming pool in the backyard.</p> <p>Large angular blue poles represent Jackson Pollack's <i>Blue Poles</i> painting.</p> <p>The signature on the ground is that of our first prime minister Edmund Barton.</p> <p>A large red X on the ground was the common signature for those who could not read or write.</p>