



NEW SOUTH WALES

Lesson Ideas

Below you will find a selection of curriculum-linked lesson ideas and accompanying activity sheets, written for primary students, to explore New South Wales. All content is copyright free for use by Australian teachers.

Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will explore the history of New South Wales.
- Students will consider what living in New South Wales means to them.
- Students will investigate the people and places that have shaped New South Wales.

English

- Students to find out the meaning of the term 'Terra Nullius'. How was this term applied to the Australian land mass and what were the implications?
- Students to imagine they are a European settler arriving on the First Fleet. Write a letter home to England describing your first impressions of Australia.
- Students to imagine that they are an early European settler or an Aboriginal Australian and write about what first contact may have been like.
- Students to read or listen to some Aboriginal Dreaming stories from local Indigenous groups. What is the moral or message in the story? What are the similarities and differences between the stories? Which areas of the state do the stories refer to?
- Students to write an anthem for New South Wales.
- Students to view tourism advertisements (*print, television or online*) for New South Wales. What strategies do the ads use to convince people to visit New South Wales? According to the ads, what can tourists expect to find if they visit? How do the ads use colour, sound, movement, aspect etc. to convey their message? Do you think the ads represent the state accurately?
- Students to write a piece titled 'What I love about living in New South Wales'.



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- Students to complete the **New South Wales KWL chart** activity sheet.
- Students to brainstorm as many adjectives as they can think of to describe New South Wales or the town/suburb in which they live.
- Students to read then discuss the poetry of Banjo Patterson. How do his words fit with the modern-day New South Wales?
- Students to complete the **New South Wales wacky wordsearch** activity sheet.

Mathematics

- Students to collect data about the climate in New South Wales and present it in graph format. Consider average rainfall, average temperatures, wind directions etc.
- Students to collect data about their classmates (*or peers in their year level*) using the **Our class by numbers** activity sheet and compare their data with the data in Facts for students (*in the Themed Curriculum Support Resources section of the For Teachers for students website*).
- Students to survey their classmates/family/friends to find out where they were born, then present the results in a graph.
- Students to complete the **New South Wales number puzzle** activity sheet and decode a message to reveal an interesting New South Wales fact.

Science

- Students to write an information report about the floral or faunal emblem of New South Wales.
- Students to select a local area and discuss how it has changed as a result of natural processes and extreme weather (*such as erosion, bushfires, drought, floods etc.*).
- Students to research major weather events (*heatwaves, bushfires, floods etc.*) in NSW and the effect they had on people and the environment.



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Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- Students to research the First Fleet. Find out about who was on the journey, why they took the journey and their experiences during travel and on first arrival.
- Students to examine the flag of New South Wales then share what they think each element represents/means.
- Students to research what life was like for the Indigenous people in New South Wales prior to European settlement.
- Students to select one person who had a significant influence on shaping the colony of New South Wales and write a short biography highlighting his/her contributions.
- Students to test their knowledge of New South Wales history by completing the **Crazy chronology – New South Wales** activity sheet.

Geography

- Students to investigate one natural wonder found in New South Wales (*e.g. the Blue Mountains, Jenolan Caves, Lord Howe Island etc.*). Describe the landscape, animal inhabitants, tourism at the site etc.
- Botany Bay was the original settlement site for the First Fleet, but when they saw it, they decided to settle at Port Jackson instead. Students to investigate why this may have been the case. What was it about Botany Bay that may have made it unsuitable for settlement?
- Students to brainstorm how New South Wales is similar to and different from other Australian states and territories.
- Students to research which natural resources can be found in New South Wales (*consider minerals, water ways, forests etc.*) then discuss how these are, or may be, used to benefit people living in New South Wales and the wider world. Students then consider the environmental impacts and responsibilities of utilising these resources.
- Students to interview someone who has moved to New South Wales either from interstate or overseas. How do they view the state? What makes them feel connected to it?
- Students to test their geography knowledge by completing the **Where is it?** activity sheet.



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Economics and Business

- Students to identify a number of businesses in their local area and investigate how they provide their goods and services (*e.g. online, shop, market etc.*). Students should also consider why these businesses exist and sort them into local, national or global business categories.

Civics and Citizenship

- Students to investigate the Australian Constitution. Discuss and debate the values that underpin this important document.
- There are three levels of government in Australia: federal, state and local. Students to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each level.
- Students to debate the difference between rights and responsibilities and list some examples of each. How do these relate to Australian citizenship?
- Students to investigate the difference between a state and territory. How do their systems of government differ?

The Arts

- Students to experiment with rock art. Begin by investigating the methods and materials that were used by the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.
- Students to work in pairs and role play the arrival of the First Fleet into Port Jackson. Students can take the role of a European settler or an Indigenous Australian.
- Students to create a new flag for New South Wales. Think about what defines the state for them and what the flag will say to others about it.
- Students to research movies or television shows that have been filmed on location in New South Wales. What was the setting? Who were the actors? Was it for international or domestic release?
- Students to select one famous artist from New South Wales (*e.g. Brett Whiteley, Ken Done*) and create a painting in the artist's style.



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Technologies

Design and Technologies

- Students research to find out which industries operate in New South Wales (e.g. *agriculture, manufacturing etc.*). If possible, visit one of these places (*or research them online*) and evaluate their production process. Consider things such as sustainability, efficiency and safety.
- Students to investigate the process of designing and building the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Which engineering and/or mathematical principles were used? What materials were chosen? Why?

Health and Physical Education

- Students to research the sports that are the most popular in New South Wales (*survey friends/family, check TV guides for broadcasts etc.*). Select one sport and devise a one lesson skills session to teach younger students the skills of the game.
- Students to select an athlete from New South Wales and collect the information required on the **Home-grown hero** activity sheet.
- Students to investigate which foods are grown or produced in New South Wales then devise a healthy menu plan using only local foods.

Languages

- Students to investigate the Indigenous languages that are spoken in or around their area. Learn to say some words in one or more of these languages.