



Welcome to Cockatoo Island.
Here you'll step back in time to visit the past, to see how
an Island has changed through time from a notorious prison
to an enormous shipbuilding yard to a place for you to come and enjoy

Your Name

Your Character's Name

Fill in the right words to find out information about Cockatoo Island

Cockatoo Island is the _____ Island on Sydney Harbour.

In its original state it was a heavily timbered sandstone knoll, rising _____ above sea level. A rocky island 'abound with _____'

When it was first settled the Island was 12.9 hectares in size, however as the sandstone cliffs were cut into, refuse was thrown into the sea, eventually expanding the area to _____.

The hard work that the _____ did dramatically changed the shape of the Island.

The Island was settled in _____ when a group of prisoners from Norfolk Island were bought here to start a jail and a quarry. They quarried sandstone from the cliffs which helped to build Sydney and they had to build their own jail.

Largest	snakes	convicts	1839
	18 metres	17.9 hectares	

Timeline

Prison 1839-1869

Girls reformatory school and industrial school 1871-1888

Boys industrial school 1871-1911

Working dockyard from 1848-1991

Island Closed 1991-2001

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust site from 2001 - current

In the beginning

Cockatoo Island was settled by the British government in 1839. However, other people would have been using the site before then. Different people would have had very different experiences of their lives on the Island.

Write down some words that describe the feelings that these different groups of people might have felt about Cockatoo Island

Eora Woman

Early convict

Guard from the 99 th Regiment of the foot

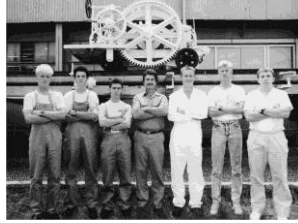
George Gipps

When looking at history it is important to think about different people's perspectives.

Work



Vernon Boys Gardening c.
1890s



Dockyard workers c. 1980s



Harbour Trust Ranger c. 2010

Pick one of the following characters and write down a to-do list for the work you have to do on the Island.

Remember to write in the date when your character was at work on the Island.

- **Convict**
- **Vernon Boy**
- **Biloela Girl**
- **Dockyard worker**
- **Ranger**

Date:

To Do

The Environment

Match the time periods and activities on the left with the correct statement about the site and environment on the right. Think about how people change the environment to suit their needs.

1850s

Convicts are building the docks designed by Gother Kerr Man

A fire is burning to cleanse the site and people are fighting to rescue the environment from the effects of industrial waste.

2003

The crew are working to clean up the Island

The climate is hot and humid, the land is a different shape and Cockatoo Island is not yet an Island.

The Triassic Period

The Labyrinthodont

There are lots of explosions and loud noises as the cliffs are blown up to change the shape of the Island.

2013

The campers are on the Island to enjoy the site and find out about the history

The Island has been cleaned up, there are lots of open spaces and the buildings have been restored so people can visit them.

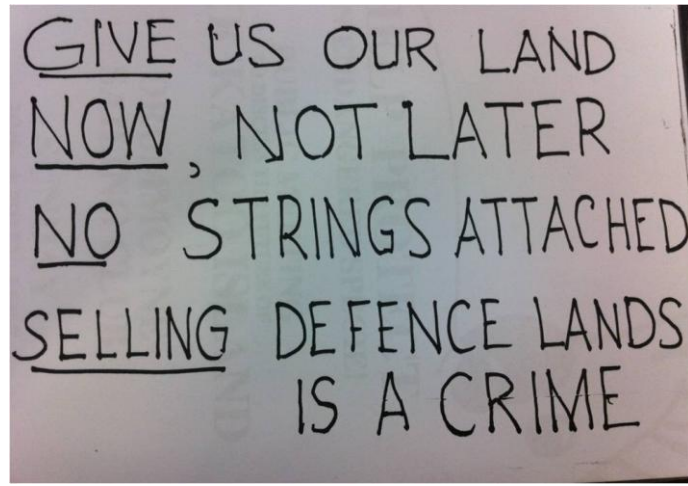
2001

Isabel Coe and her friends are fighting a land rights claim for the Island

There is lots of mess, collapsing buildings and industrial mess. There is lots of work to be done to clean up.

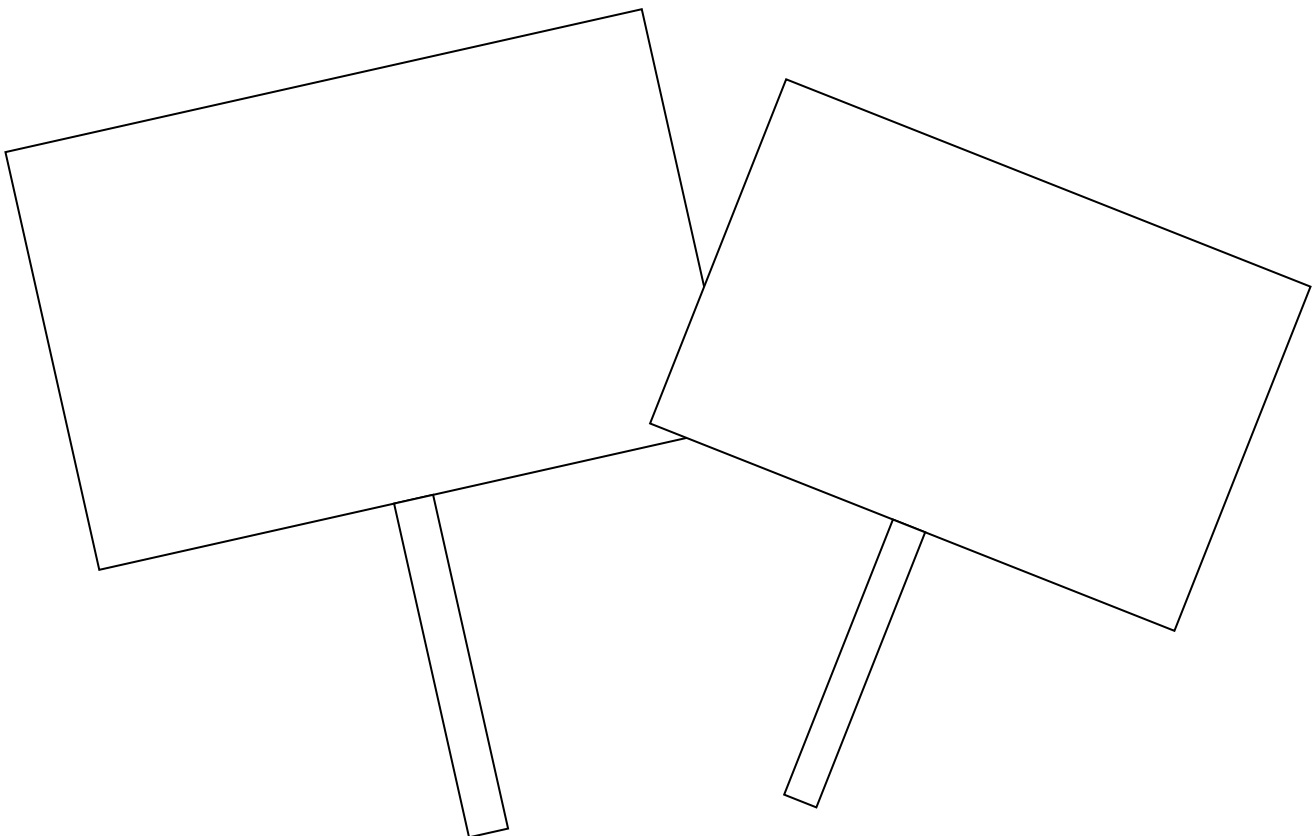
Community

When you think something is unfair you can protest or let people like your local council member know that you are unhappy, or you could write a letter to a newspaper to share your views.



Protest sign from Friends of Cockatoo Island, 1995

Think about something that you think is unfair, perhaps at school or maybe at home. Write a protest sign to share with people why you're unhappy.



Extension Activities

Write a letter to your local newspaper outlining why you would like to save an important site in your local area. Be sure to describe the site, why it is important to you and what value it holds for the wider community:

To the editor:

Sincerely,

Classroom debate

Get together with your classmates and have a debate about convict transportation to Australia.

Topic: It is important to preserve historic and heritage sites so people can visit and enjoy them

Split the class in half. One half must argue in the affirmative, agreeing with the topic and the other half in the negative disagreeing with the topic.

You can either hold the debate informally as a classroom discussion, or as a formal debate.

The format for a formal debate is as follows:

Chairperson-
Introduces the topic and each of the speakers

1. First Affirmative Speaker -
Presents the outline of the topic and presents a major argument supported with evidence

3. Second Affirmative Speaker -
Rebuts the first negative speaker's argument.
Presents one to two arguments supported with evidence

5. Third Affirmative Speaker-
Rebuts the second negative speaker.
Summarises and closes the affirmative argument

2. First Negative Speaker-
Defines the outline of their team's argument. Rebuts the the affirmative team's introduction. Presents the a major argument supported with evidence

4. Second Negative Speaker- Rebuts the second affirmative speaker's argument.
Presents one to two arguments supported with evidence

6. Third Negative Speaker -
Rebuts the third affirmative speaker.
Summarises and closes the negative argument

Use your excursion to Cockatoo Island and further research to inform your debate. Have the class discuss the outcome of the debate afterwards and agree on a winner.