

Garcia and Colette

By Hannah Barnaby

Illustrations by Andrew Joyner

Book Summary:

Best friends Garcia and Colette are eager to go exploring - only they can't agree on where to go. Garcia loves everything about space (stars! planets! meteors!) and Colette is obsessed with the sea (sand! coral! fish!).

So Garcia builds a rocket ship that's snazzy and silver, Colette constructs a submarine that's perfect for deep-sea dives, and they wish each other well on their travels. But even though they find some amazing things on their journeys, the friends quickly realize they each left something very important back home.

Exploring your favourite place can be terrific, but sometimes the company is more important than the destination.

Curriculum Areas and Key Learning Outcomes:

Garcia & Colette suits the following Australian Curriculum content descriptors:

Foundation (Kindergarten/Prep)

English

ACELT1575

ACELT1783

ACELT1578

ACELT1831

Year 1

English

ACELT1586

ACELT1832

Year 2

English

ACELT1589

ACELT1591

ACELT1833

Year 3

English

ACELT1596

ACELT1599

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Notes by: Christina Wheeler

Themes

Friendship, Compromise, Adventure

Recommended Ages: 3+

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Introduction

Garcia & Colette Go Exploring offers a range of classroom applications, including the appreciation of literature, visual literacy, as well as interpersonal, research and communication skills. It also has scope to include problem solving and technology. Written in third person, past tense, readers gain the perspective of both Garcia and Colette as they reach a compromise, realising that friendship triumphs every time.

Before reading

- Have you and your friends ever gone exploring, even if in a made-up game during play time? What sorts of things do you explore? What makes exploring so much fun?
- The illustration on the title page gives readers clues about the text. What are these clues? What do these tell us about the story? Why might the two characters walking away from one another, even though they're smiling?
- Read the blurb on the back cover. Compare the blurb with your initial predications about the text.

Setting

- What are the various settings in *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring*? Which is your favourite? Why? Share with a friend.

Themes

- Friendship, Compromise, Adventure

Further activity & discussion suggestions

- Share a time when you have had a disagreement with a friend or sibling about something? What was it about? How did you feel during the disagreement? How was it resolved? How does reading *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring* help you to understand that it's ok to have differences of opinion, but it's how it is handled that is important?
- How do the illustrations convey that Garcia and Colette are having a disagreement as opposed to a fight? What is the difference? Why is it important to know how to disagree with your friends in an appropriate manner?
- Discuss the way in which Garcia and Colette collect data and problem solve to prove that 'space' or 'sea' is better. Why is it necessary to have proof or evidence when trying to convince others of your opinion?

- Are you a 'space' or a 'sea' person? Share your views with a partner, giving evidence to support your ideas.
- Retell *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring* in your own words, either in written or verbal form. Alternatively, in pairs, re-enact the storyline of *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring*.
- Imagine you are Garcia and Colette embarking on an expedition to the desert. With a partner, plan what you would need to take with you.
- Write and illustrate another page opening or two for *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring*, sharing your exploration of the desert.
- What do you think is the main message or purpose of *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring*? Is it about which landscape is best, or something else? Discuss.
- What role does friendship play in the text? How would you describe the friendship that Garcia and Colette have?
- With a partner, embark on an adventure of your own in the school grounds. Take digital photos and record your observations of the places you visit. Create a photo journal to share your exploration.
- Apart from what we read and see in the text, what else do you think Garcia and Colette might have discovered on their expeditions to space and under the sea? Use non-fiction books from your library to help explore these landscapes further.
- Construct a Word Wall for your classroom, adding vocabulary from *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring* as well as from your other research. Use this vocabulary in your writing.
- Conduct your own research about some famous explorers. How did they record their findings? What types of things did they take with them? What challenges and discoveries did their explorations include? Present your findings in a format of your choice.
- What is your favourite page opening in *Garcia & Colette Go Exploring*? Share your reasons with a friend.
- In the role of either Garcia or Colette, write a journal entry while you are exploring your favourite place.
- Create an information report about space, the sea or the desert. (Extension: Choose a landscape or biome not included in the text eg rainforests, grasslands or mangroves).
- Compare space and the sea using a Venn diagram (Activity Sheet 1) to organise your ideas.
- Write and deliver a persuasive speech to address the following topic: *Which is better – space or sea?* Take notes about space and the sea using Activity Sheet 2. Use these notes to help with your persuasive speech.

- Using Activity Sheet 3, jot down observations that could be made about the desert. Use non-fiction books or documentaries about the desert to help with these notes.
- In small groups, design and create your own rocket or submarine. Use your constructions to re-enact the adventures of Garcia and Colette.

About Author

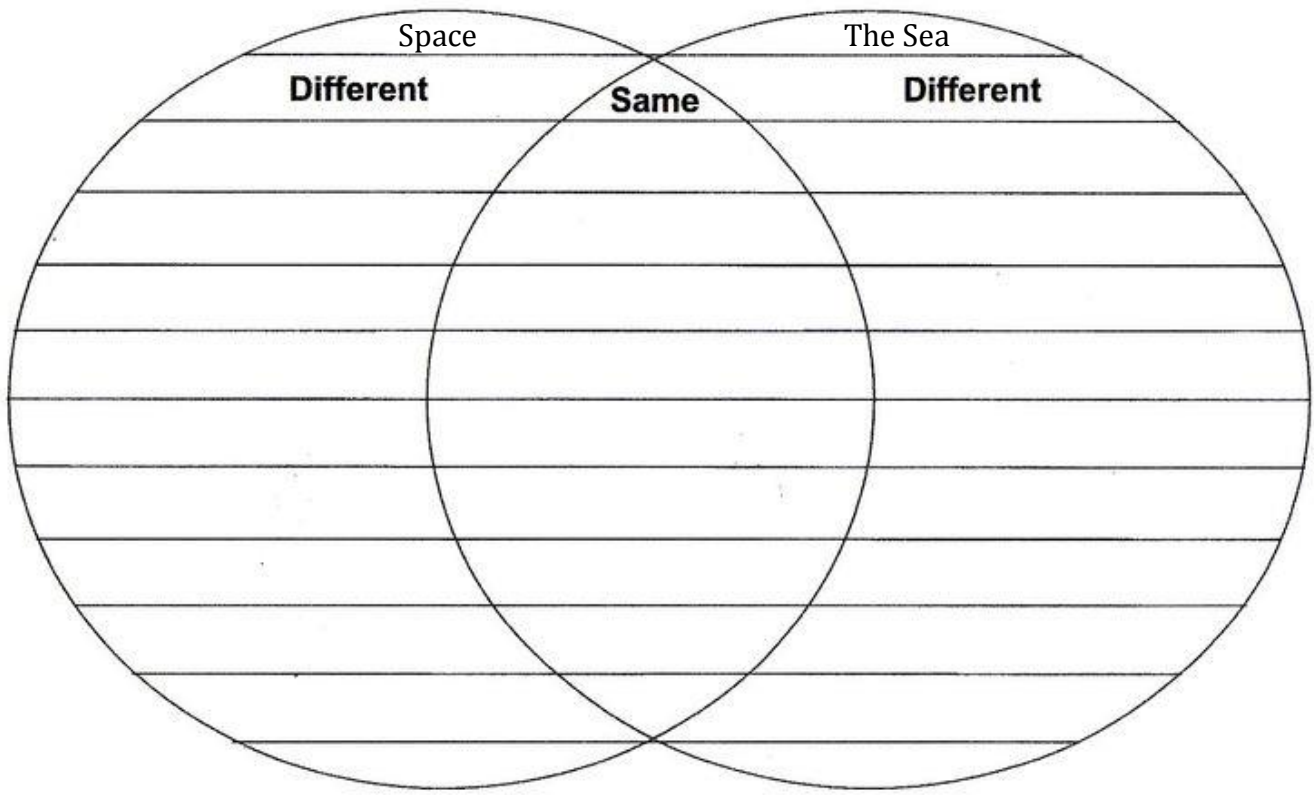
About the Illustrator

Activity Sheets

- Venn diagram - comparing space with the sea
- Note Taking – observations of space and the sea
- Note Taking – observations about the desert

Activity Sheet 1

Venn Diagram Topic: Comparing space with the sea



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Just like Garcia and Colette, take notes recording your observations about space and the sea. Add more to these notes from your own knowledge and from further research.

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Activity Sheet 2

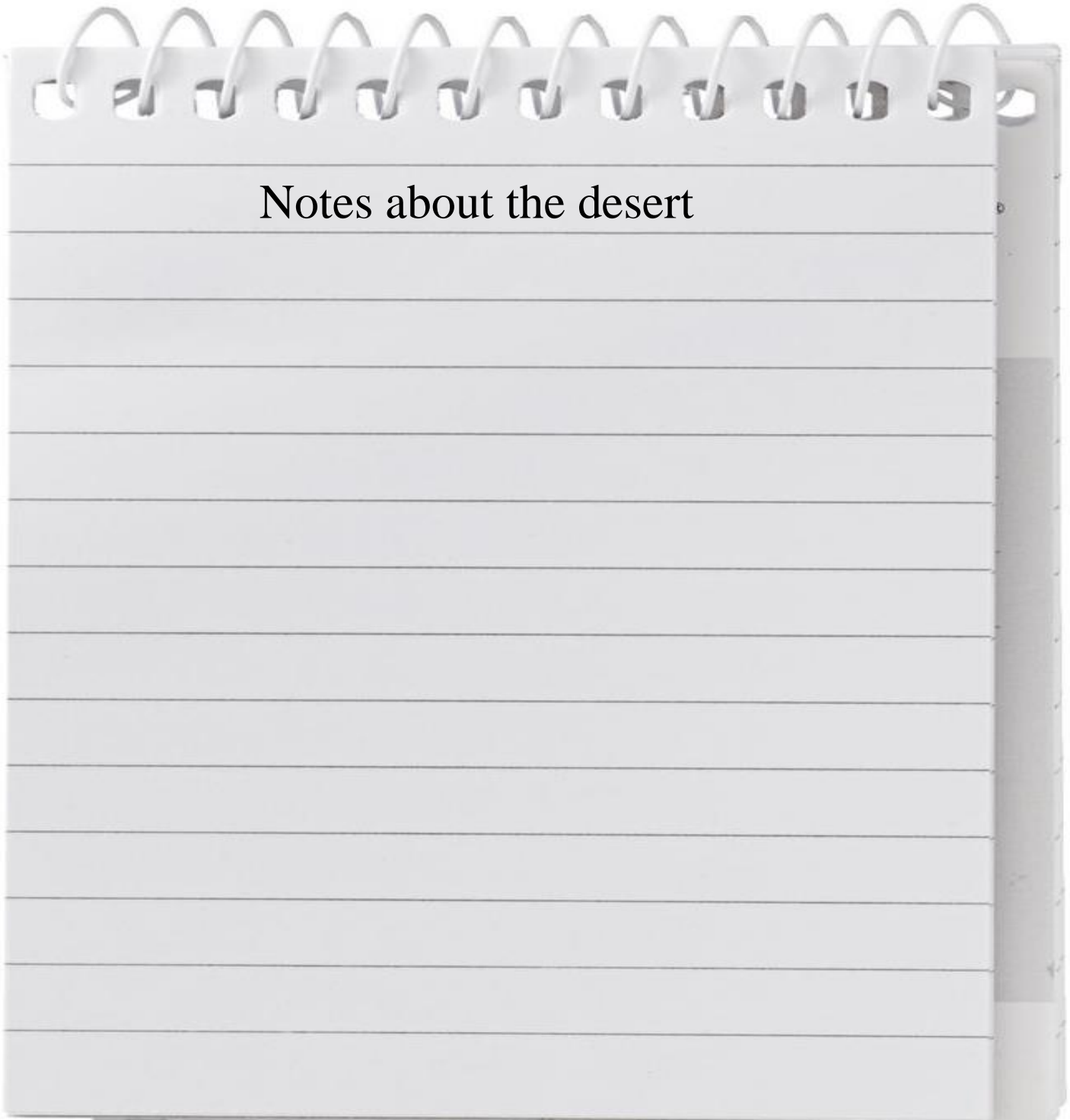
Notes about space

Notes about the sea

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Activity Sheet 3

Imagine you are Garcia and Colette and on your new adventure exploring the desert. Add your observations about the desert. Add more to these notes from your own knowledge and from further research.



Notes about the desert

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