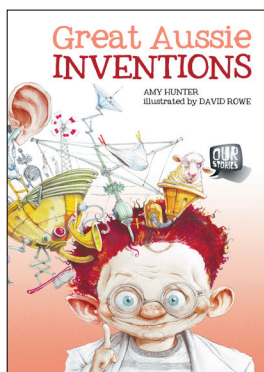


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Our Stories: Great Aussie Inventions

Author: Amy Hunter
 Illustrator: David Rowe
 ISBN: 9781922179241
 ARRP: \$17.95
 NZRRP: \$19.99
 September 2013

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

What makes Australians such brilliant inventors? Whose idea was the black box flight recorder? Who thought of spray-on skin? The Safe-n-Sound baby capsule? And the Hills Hoist clothes line? Australian inventions. You use them every day.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Amy Hunter has an engineering degree and used to work with inventors. Now she writes for children and lives in Melbourne.

David Rowe is an award-winning political cartoonist.

How to use these notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:

- Primary years 5 & 6
- Ages 10+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science

Example of:

- Non-fiction

Themes/ Ideas:

- Inventions
- Science

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions:

English Year 5	Year 6	Science Year 5	Year 6
ACELA1504	ACELA1518	ACSHE081	ACSHE098
ACELA1797	ACELA1524	ACSHE082	ACSHE099
ACELA1511	ACELT1613	ACSHE083	ACSHE100
ACELT1608	ACELY1709	ACSHE217	ACSHE220
ACELY1700	ACELY1816		
ACELY1701	ACELY1710		
ACELY1702	ACELY1711		
ACELY1703	ACELY1712		

*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.

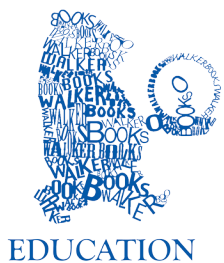
Discussion Questions and Activities

'When the early European settlers arrived in Australia they found a very different country to anything they knew.' (p.2)

- Draw a map of Australia. Mark in the states, territories and capital cities as we know them today. Mark in the surrounding seas and oceans. Include a border, title, northing, key and scale on your map. Represent on your map some of the differences between England and Australia. Consider things such as climate, flora,

fauna, food and inhabitants. (You might like to use some illustrations like the ones in the text to show the differences.) Represent on your map some of the tools or inventions that the Indigenous Australians were already using when the settlers arrived.

- Choose your favourite inventor and create a PowerPoint presentation about them. Make your presentation as eye-catching as this book. Include some biographical details about the inventor. Include



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information about the impact of their invention on Australians.

Discussion Questions

- In groups, order the importance of the inventions presented in this text. Explain to the class which invention you consider to be the most important and why.
- As a class, discuss any negative impacts that have resulted from the inventions written about in this text. Discuss the negative impacts of some inventions that are not mentioned in the text.
- Discuss the important qualities that an inventor must possess. Which of these qualities do you have? Discuss times when you have used a creative solution to solve a problem.

ENGLISH

Reading and writing

- Use your imagination to write the diary entry of Bruce Thompson on the day that he invented the dual flush toilet. How might it have happened? What thoughts might he have had about the importance of his invention?
- Write a story about an invention that went very, very wrong. You might like to illustrate your piece with some funny pictures.
- Write a story about a character who lives in a world where one or more of these inventions does not exist. For example, what would the world be like today if a dual flush toilet had not been invented? What would be the implications for our water supply? You might like to write about a world that has no television. You might like to write a story about a cricketer who does not have zinc cream and so has to look like a tomato!

Speaking and listening

- In the 'Creative Arts' section of these notes you are asked to design and draw your own invention. Present this to the class.
- Hold a series of debates about which invention is the most important in Australian life.
- To decide on the topics for the debates you could put all of the inventions into a hat and draw them out two at a time. For example, if zinc cream and penicillin are both drawn out, the teams must debate which is the most important. This will call for great creativity on the part of the 'zinc cream' team.

BOOK FEATURES AND FORMAT

Great Aussie Inventions has many features that are important in factual texts:

- Contents Page (note the clear headings)
- Headings
- Sub-headings

- Highlighted key points
- Timeline
- Index
- Glossary
- References
- Page numbers

1. Locate each of the above features in the book.
2. List some features of this book's glossary that make it clear and well organised.
3. Create a set of challenges to test how well a classmate can use the index and glossary sections of this text.
4. The information presented in this book is factual. Discuss how the writing style of this book differs from other non-fiction books that you have read.
5. Think about the qualities that a good inventor must have. In what ways do the design and layout of the book reflect these qualities?

VISUAL LITERACY

Illustrations

Some of the information in this text is conveyed through illustrations.

- How many inventions can you find on the cover and pages 2 and 3 of the text?
- What is your favourite illustration? Explain your choice.

SCIENCE

In this text we learn about many developments in medicine.

- Choose one of the medical developments in this book and list the ways it has impacted on your life.
- Research a medical development that is not described in this text. Present your information in the same way that Amy Hunter and David Rowe have done. (There are some great references at the back of the book!)

CREATIVE ARTS

Design an invention that you think is needed in the world. (Or design an invention that is not needed but might be fun!) Draw a picture of your invention and write an explanation of it for the class.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amy Hunter has an engineering degree and used to work with inventors. Now she writes for children and lives in Melbourne.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Award-winning illustrator David Rowe has been published daily in the Australian Financial Review for 10 years.