

# PRE- AND POST-VISIT SUGGESTIONS



## EARLY SCHOOL DAYS

Show the students photographs and pictures of daily life 80-120 years ago. A CD-Rom and a set of photos has been sent to each visiting teacher or use the photo gallery on the *Government Schools of NSW from 1848* website at

[www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/cli/govt\\_schools/photogallery.shtm](http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/cli/govt_schools/photogallery.shtm)

Ask the students questions such as:

- What is the photograph about?
- Where was the photograph taken?
- If you were in the photo what would you hear, smell and feel?
- What does the photograph tell us about everyday life?

Look at buildings, vehicles, gardens, clothing, equipment being used, etc.

## STORIES FROM OBJECTS

Ask the students to bring in interesting old objects to show to other students. From observation of the objects, determine the use of each object. Ask the students to predict what the object was used for and look for clues of its use.

Encourage the students to share these family stories associated with the object. Invite grandparents to share their stories.

## CLASSROOM MUSEUM

Using objects brought in by the students, and those found in the school, set up a museum display in an area of the classroom. Discuss the reasons for keeping old and precious objects and also their care.

## ORAL HISTORIES

Invite grandparents to share oral history relating to early life and early school days. Encourage visitors to bring objects to add interest.

## DIGITAL STORY

Create a digital story of childhood and schooling in the past using a combination of historic images from the Internet (see over) and photographs taken on the Schoolhouse Museum visit.

## LETTER TO A FRIEND

Write an imaginary letter recounting a typical day at school in the 1880s. The letter could include the lessons of the day, punishments given out and playground activities.

## LOCAL SCHOOL HISTORY

Search the school for plaques, honour boards, photographs and other evidence of your own school history. These primary sources should provide information on when the school opened, who the first captains were, when extra buildings were added, and the dates of special events.

## STEP INTO THE PHOTO

Working in groups, give the students an early photo of a group of children. The students take on the pose of the students in the photo as a tableau. On a signal the students then add movement and dialogue as they imagine would have occurred immediately before or after the photograph was taken. Add costumes and props.

## PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE GRID

For early technologies observed at the Schoolhouse Museum and develop a grid of changes over time and predictions for the future.

## LITERATURE

*The Old Bush School* by Henry Lawson.

*Walking to School* by Ethel Turner (author) & Peter Gouldthorpe (illus.), Collins Australia in assn. with Anne Ingram Books, Sydney, 1988.

*Lizzie Nonsense* by Jan Ormerod, Little Hare Books, 2004.

*You Wouldn't Want to be a Victorian Schoolchild! - Lessons You'd Rather Not Learn* by John Malam (author) & David Antram (illus), Hodder Wayland, London, 2001.

## NSW SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Cox's Road, North Ryde, 2113  
Phone/Fax 9805 1186

[info@schoolhousemuseum.org.au](mailto:info@schoolhousemuseum.org.au)  
[www.schoolhousemuseum.org.au](http://www.schoolhousemuseum.org.au)