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10+ years

Reading With Purpose

PHOTOCOPY
MASTERS

Famous Faces *from History*

Themed reading and
comprehension activities with a
focus on consolidating word skills,
writing strategies and reflection.



By Margaret Etherton

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Rationale

“Famous Faces from History” is a text-based learning resource for students aged 10 and over. It contains ten biographies of famous people whose lives are inspiring to students. They include people who have overcome difficulties to achieve in their particular field or who have survived great adventures. Their lives can be enlightening, entertaining and exciting.

The subjects include writers, explorers, artists, nurses, royalty and mathematicians. As well as providing background information on each person, this book endeavours to relate childhood anecdotes and the historical significance of individual triumphs. It is possible to gain a deeper understanding of a mathematical or scientific concept through an appreciation of its development. For example, the importance of place value in the Hindu-Arabic number system can be understood from the way it was introduced into Western culture by the famous mathematician, Leonardo Fibonacci.

Each biography is followed by vocabulary, comprehension and writing activities. Further in-depth questions require analysis, synthesis and critical thinking skills. Fun activities include drawing, design tasks and posters. There are also research tasks to pursue investigations on related subjects, e.g. Maths, Music, Art, Computers, etc. Students are directed to specific reliable websites or given instructions on how to navigate the web using encyclopedias, search engines or appropriate key words.

This book has been designed for use in the upper primary school classroom but it could equally be used by homeschoolers. A bibliography is included on Page 60 which contains details of reference materials and relevant websites.

Objectives

- to foster greater understanding of human endeavours, exploration, and achievements;
- to provide a range of written text types;
- to develop skills in comprehension and critical thinking;
- to develop and refine research skills;
- to develop students’ enjoyment and appreciation of mathematics, art, literature and lifelong learning;
- to improve drawing and painting skills.

Website References

All websites listed in the **Reading With Purpose** series are linked from the Ready-Ed website listed below. This saves the teacher and/or student from typing in the addresses each time. External websites referred to in this book will be updated through the Ready-Ed site below should they disappear or modify their address after publication. Bookmark this site for ease of use:



www.readyed.com.au/urls/readers

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The Talented Convict – Francis Howard Greenway

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In the early days of settlement by Europeans, convicts came in battered sailing ships to Australia. At the time Australia was known as “New Holland”. The convicts had done nothing more than steal a loaf of bread, a piece of steel, a pair of boots or a gentleman’s watch. They were not all criminals and may have only been desperate people living in difficult times when famine and drought made food too expensive for them to feed themselves and their children.

One such convict, Francis Greenway, was transported across the world and arrived in Australia in 1813 with no money, no friends and a chain between both ankles. But he did have one thing and that was talent. Francis was a draftsman. He was sentenced to death by hanging for forging a financial document. Fortunately for Francis, his sentence was reduced to 14 years in Australia.

Francis Howard Greenway was born in Bristol in 1777. Like his family he was a builder but he found himself in trouble with the law at the age of 36. Luckily in Australia, he impressed Governor Lachlan Macquarie who gave him a full pardon after only four years of his sentence. This was because he designed and helped to build Macquarie Lighthouse. Lighthouses were very important to the new colony so that ships could find their way in the night along the dangerous coastline.

After his wonderful lighthouse Macquarie asked Francis to build a new Government House. He gave Francis the grand title of *Civil Architect and Assistant Engineer* on the salary of three shillings a day as well as a free house to live in. For his first job Francis designed a stable, but it looked more like a castle. The stable was so grand that people thought that it was the house itself. Today the Conservatorium of Music in Macquarie Street, Sydney, uses the stable building for teaching. It has been restored to its original design only recently.

Life was still hard for Francis after he gained his freedom – the workmen were not all skilled tradesmen, as they would have been in England, but poor underfed convicts. The work he showed them to do sometimes involved totally new ideas so he had to train them in many new skills. And he was often treated badly because he was an ex-convict. Greenway had constant battles with other architects who did not agree with his ideas.

In the 1820s, he designed the Darlinghurst Jail, high on the hill above old Sydney Town. Unfortunately for Francis they only followed his plan for the walls. He was taken off the job because he was an ex-convict. Did they think he would design a tunnel for all the prisoners to escape through? The sandstone came from nearby. You can still today see the convict’s marks on the stonework to show how much work they did. The jail is



The Talented Convict – Francis Howard Greenway

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continued

now a college in Darlinghurst and this has been restored ... as an arts college not a jail!

Another new project was not easy for poor Francis. In 1810 he was commissioned to build a hospital to replace the few miserable tents the colony had in the Rocks district. The hospital was to have a large central building and two smaller wings for the surgeons. Today the southern section is the Mint Museum on Macquarie Street near Hyde Park, and the northern section is the façade or front of the enlarged Parliament House. The central building was replaced by the Sydney Hospital in 1894. Francis had problems with the builders. He found that the building was poorly built with rotting timbers. This was due to the fact that the builders had tried to save money.

Francis went on to design many wonderful buildings – the *Female Factory* in Parramatta, the District Courts, St James Church in Queen's Square, St Luke's Church in Liverpool, Goulburn Brewery, the fort on Bennelong Point and the brilliant St Matthew's Church at Windsor. In total he designed over 40 buildings of which only 11 are still standing to this day.

When Governor Macquarie retired to England in 1822 his successor, Commissioner Bigge, complained that Greenway's work was too fancy and so Francis lost his job as civil architect. But Greenway still caused a bit of a stir. He refused to leave his free house claiming that Macquarie said that he could live in it for the rest of his life. He even produced documents to prove it. But were they forged? Do you remember that he was sent to Australia for forgery? No one knows for sure.

Francis retired to live in the Hunter Valley and died in 1837 at the age of 60. Today many architects praise Francis' work. They say he loved his materials – stone, bricks and timber. His roofs were unusual for their time. He had learnt how to design them from working with the architect Thomas Hardwick on the Church of St Paul at Covent Garden in England. The new type of truss he used gave strength to the roof and was less expensive.

Francis Greenway is only one of the many talented people who arrived in Australia in an unusual way – on the end of a chain. But he went on to be a creative person making a contribution to the young colony. He built many uniquely Australian buildings from the material around him. What would Australia be like without such a talented convict? ■



Famous Faces from History

Francis Greenway

Word Study

Suffixes

Conviction ends in **-tion**. The suffixes **-tion**, **-ation** and **-ion** are common suffixes or endings of words and they come from the Latin meaning **being** or **the result of**.

Add the correct ending to these words:

elect _____

correct _____

contribute _____

confuse _____

reject _____

select _____

transport _____

inject _____

Word Search

Find these words in the puzzle:

•build •construct •create •decorate •design •draft •plan •sketch •draw

C	U	N	G	I	S	E	D	F	W	D
O	O	E	D	A	P	H	P	D	W	E
E	V	N	H	W	O	D	R	L	T	C
Q	T	D	S	Z	E	S	Q	I	Q	O
P	B	A	H	T	K	B	S	U	K	R
G	L	X	E	E	R	T	M	B	K	A
J	J	A	T	R	F	U	C	D	W	T
C	M	C	N	A	C	M	C	A	A	E
A	H	B	R	P	J	Y	B	T	E	W
D	E	D	U	F	D	R	A	W	K	L

Word Meanings

Place the correct word in the sentence:

•gained •impressed •transported •designed •refused

He _____ to pay the builder.

She _____ entry to the house through the window.

He was _____ by the new lighthouse

She _____ a magnificent house.

He was _____ to Australia for theft.

Alphabetical Order

Place these words in alphabetical order:

•financial •document •convict •criminal •forgery •architect
•draftsman •transportation •tradesmen •designed •coastline
•conservatorium •facade •miserable •lighthouse.

Misspelling

Choose the correct spelling by ticking the box:

<input type="checkbox"/> financial	<input type="checkbox"/> finanshul	<input type="checkbox"/> finanseal
<input type="checkbox"/> castel	<input type="checkbox"/> carsel	<input type="checkbox"/> castle
<input type="checkbox"/> desparate	<input type="checkbox"/> desperet	<input type="checkbox"/> desperate
<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> setlement	<input type="checkbox"/> setelment
<input type="checkbox"/> arkitect	<input type="checkbox"/> architect	<input type="checkbox"/> architet
<input type="checkbox"/> docuement	<input type="checkbox"/> dokument	<input type="checkbox"/> document



Famous Faces from History ③

Francis Greenway

Comprehension

Understanding the Text

1. What sort of crimes did people commit in the 1800s that saw them sent to Australia?

2. Why was Greenway transported to Australia? What was his crime?

3. Why do you think Governor Macquarie gave Greenway a full pardon after only four years of his sentence?

4. What type of buildings did Greenway build in the new colony?

5. What difficulties did Greenway face as an architect?

6. What prejudice did Greenway face because of his convict past?

7. Why is Greenway considered an important contributor to Australia's heritage?

Writing Task

▶ Choose one of the following famous convicts to research:

- Mary Reiby (*picture on the twenty dollar bill*)
- William Buelow Gould (*famous artist*)
- Esther Abrahams (*wife of the Governor*)
- Simeon Lord (*merchant and pioneer*)
- Margaret Catchpole (*pioneer*)

▶ Write the biography of the person you have researched by answering these questions:

- Where did they come from?
- What crime did they commit?
- How many years did they have to serve?
- What happened after they were released?
- What did they achieve during their lifetime?

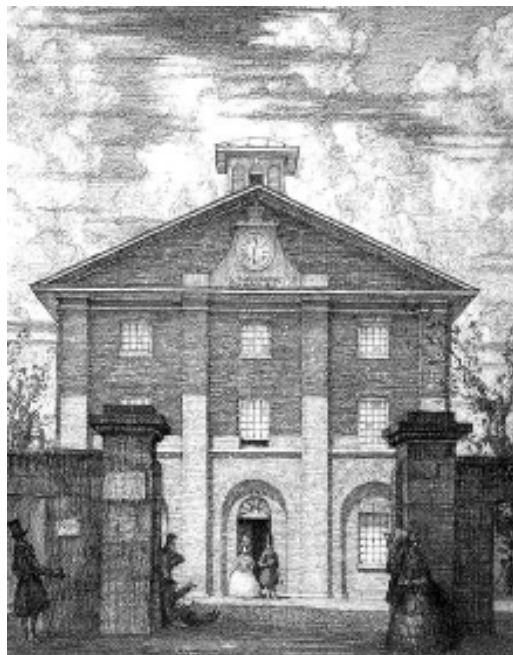
▶ Present your information as a visual display, a graphical presentation (PowerPoint) or a written report.

Some starting points:

- ▶ www.adb.online.anu.edu.au
Australian Dictionary of Biography
- ▶ www.famouspeople.co.uk/

Architectural Drawing Task

This is a drawing of Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie St, Sydney as designed by Francis Greenway. Draw the façade or front of your school or an old building nearby. Notice the edgings, the roof line and the supports. Try to include as much detail as possible.



Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:HydeParkBarracksDrawingHardyWilson1914.jpg
(Public Domain)



Famous Faces
from History ③

► **Francis
Greenway**

Extension Tasks

Complete on a separate piece of paper.

① Diary of a Journey

For many people in England, Australia was a mysterious land. Some thought it was a land of terror and devils; others thought it a land of plenty and sunshine. Over 150,000 convicts were transported to Australia, including men, women, children and elderly. Children were punished the same as adults. The punishment for over 200 different crimes was the death penalty; for stealing a pair of boots it could be seven years.

- Write a diary from the point of view of a convict, a marine, a settler or a sailor about the journey coming from England and your first impressions of Old Sydney Town.

Include the details which are important to you such as food, bedding, the lash, clothing, work, hopes, etc.

② What's for Dinner? – Imagine you were an early settler to Australia

There is definitely no McDonalds! The seasons are back to front so December is summer instead of winter when you are used to celebrating Christmas. The food arriving by boat from England, such as biscuits, flour or dried beef, has weevils or is stale. You see the Aboriginal people living off the land and the sea, eating oysters, bugs and kangaroos.

What would be your diet? Plan a meal for a settler family.

③ Buildings with Sandstone

Try to visit or view on the Internet some of Francis Greenway's buildings. Which do you like best? Do you think it is important to maintain old buildings or should they be pulled down?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of building with stone?

Collect a variety of pictures of buildings which reflect different periods of time and culture around the world and in your town. Cut them out of a magazine or download them from the Internet. Write a brief explanation of each picture underneath. Paste them onto cardboard to display in the classroom.

④ Convict Tales

Look up a convict in a convict register and write out their "convict tale" about their crime, their punishment and what happened to them.

- cedir.uow.edu.au/programs/FirstFleet

Database of the First Fleet

- members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/stories.html

Tales of convicts who came to Australia listed under the ship in which they arrived.

- www.convictcreations.com

The hidden story about Australia's past.

⑤ My Dream Home

Design a floor plan for your dream home. You can use your imagination to create as many rooms as you like, as large as you like and as practical as you want it to be. Don't forget to use a pencil so you can rub out and include a scale. Include some "green living" aspects like windows and skylights to catch light and heat, solar heating, waste water recycling units, etc.