Further reading for teachers


This is a US publication, but has some Australian content


Reading for students: nonfiction


Ask your school librarian or local municipal librarian for recommendations of nonfiction books about your local community that are suitable for Year 3 students. Students may also enjoy a pictorial history of your community or a commemorative history of your school, if available.

Reading for students: fiction

Hill, K, *The Year of Miss Agnes*, Margaret K McElderry, 2000

A new teacher comes to teach and live in an Alaskan community


The story of an English girl and her village life in the 1920s–30s


The story of a Chinese-American girl and her community


A town deals with a spell of cold weather


A 200-year history of The Rocks, Sydney, as told by children who lived there

Ask your school librarian or local municipal librarian for recommendations of children’s fiction books that feature your local community.

Local historical societies

Many communities have a local historical society. These groups play a significant role in the preservation of community memory. They often maintain monuments and plaques that record important community events or the local effects of wider national events. Amateur historians often have close connections with local historical societies and produce local history texts. These societies also have collections of images, newspaper clippings and artefacts.

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies
http://www.history.org.au/FAHS%20constituents.html

This website includes links to local historical societies for all states and territories. Each society’s website has contact details, plus a wealth of information about finding local history resources

The following societies have online databases.

Canberra District Historical Society
http://www.canberrahistory.org.au

Historical Society of the Northern Territory

History Trust of South Australia
http://www.history.sa.gov.au

Royal Australian Historical Society, New South Wales
http://www.rahs.org.au

Royal Historical Society of Queensland
http://www.queenslandhistory.org

Royal Historical Society of Victoria
http://www.historyvictoria.org.au

Royal Western Australian Historical Society
http://www.histwest.org.au

Tasmanian Historical Research Association
http://www.thra.org.au

Photographs

The following websites have historic photograph collections.

LINC Tasmania
http://eheritage.statelibrary.tas.gov.au

National Library of Australia

Picture NT, Northern Territory Library
http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/handle/10070/4

State Library of New South Wales

State Library of South Australia
State Library of Victoria
what-we-collect/pictures

State Library of Western Australia
pictures

Newspapers
The National Library of Australia’s Trove website
(http://trove.nla.gov.au) contains archived
newspapers from all over Australia, plus many other
resources.
Your local library may also have copies of old
editions of your local newspaper.

Websites
Australian Dictionary of Biography
http://adb.anu.edu.au
Contains information about significant Australian
individuals

Australian Institute of Architects
Includes a listing of, and links to, heritage buildings around
Australia

CoraWeb
Contains numerous links to local-history source materials
in Australia

Local History Online
http://www.local-history.co.uk/gettingstarted.html
A UK-based website with ideas for finding sources

National Archives of Australia

Interactive resources
The This House series allows students to explore
changes to a house and its occupants in a particular
community.

This House: Settling in Ballarat
http://www.myplace.edu.au/TLF_resources/L2706/
description.html

This House: Settling in Leichhardt
living%20in%20leichhardt/index.html

This House: Settling in Port Adelaide
http://streaming.lawley.wa.edu.au/students/TLF/DVD/los/L2705/index.html

Audiovisual resources
My Place, ABC TV series

Excursions
Classes can undertake local site studies of war
memorials, commemorative plaques, gardens, statues,
cemeteries, streetscapes, heritage buildings, places
of worship, public buildings and industrial sites.
Your school may have original, historically valuable
buildings on site. Your local council will have further
information on their website, as will your state
tourism bureau. Your local historical society or place
of worship may have visitor information.

Helping students find sources
Some of the lessons, worksheets and assessments in
My Community require that students find their own
sources, such as those listed below.

Pictorial sources
The National Archives of Australia website is an
excellent place to start looking for Australian images,
including images pertinent to local history. Other
images can be found on local-history websites or in
local newspapers’ online archives. Your local council
and local historical society may have online or archival
resources too. Images can also be found using your
preferred search engine, but make sure these images can
be identified with a date and a title. Nonfiction books,
especially those covering local history or your school’s
history, may also contain useful pictorial sources.

Text sources
Primary sources
If students are interested in accessing primary text
sources, their best option is a local-history text or
website; these may include excerpts from the diaries,
letters or speeches of notable local citizens. Local
historical societies often have access to such resources
too. If your local library has a well-organised local
newspaper archive, this may also prove useful. Your
local library or council should be able to help with
further resources.

Secondary sources
The websites and nonfiction books listed above
contain a lot of useful information on this topic.
Students’ local and school libraries may have additional
titles. Ensure students consult relatively recent
publications (if possible), as older texts may contain
attitudes and perspectives that are no longer current
in mainstream Australia. You may need to explain
this issue to students and show them how to check
publication dates to identify up-to-date resources.