

Year 3 Teacher Guide: Government House, Darwin

The Bombing of Government House

Learning Area: History Stage of Schooling: Year 3

Topic: Diverse communities and places and the contribution people make

Knowledge and Understanding:

Students will investigate how days and weeks are celebrated or commemorated in Australia (Bombing of Darwin)

Achievement Standard:

By the end of Year 3, students identify individuals, events and aspects of the past that have significance in the present. They identify and describe aspects of their community that have changed and remained the same over time. They identify the importance of different celebrations and commemorations for different groups.

Students sequence information about events and the lives of individuals in chronological order. They pose questions about the past and locate and collect information from sources (written, physical, visual, oral) to answer these questions. They analyse information to identify a point of view. Students develop texts, including narrative accounts, using terms denoting time.

Inquiry Questions:

How and why do people choose to remember significant events of the past?

Lesson: The Bombing of Government House

Learning Intention:

Students will use the tour of Government House to investigate the contributions of individuals, groups and organisations during the bombing of Darwin.

Success Criteria:

Students will -

- Question: What happened at Government House in 1942?
- Research: Government House tour to find out where the events occurred and what it is like now.
- Analyse: What would life have been like after the bombing? How did it change? How do you think people felt?
- Evaluate: Why should we remember this time?
- Communicate: By creating and sharing your research about other events from the bombing of Darwin.

Supporting Materials:

Story: The First Government House

Suggested Activities:

- Excursion Activity 1. What can I find?
- Excursion Activity 2. A Walking Tour
- School Activity 1. Find out more
- School Activity 2. My letter

Suggested Sequence:

- Read and discuss the story.
- Complete school activities 1-2.
- Complete excursion activities 1 or 2.

References

Adelaide Memorial

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW), 18 February 1954.

Adelaide River War Cemetery

<https://www.weekendnotes.com/bombing-of-darwin-ceremony/>

Daisy Martin

<http://www.ntlexhibit.nt.gov.au/exhibits/show/bod/roh/martin>

Darwin Post Office

The story of the bombing of Darwin can be read online at the Australian War Memorial site.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/1942-bombing-of-darwin>

<http://guides.naa.gov.au/records-about-northern-territory/part1/chapter4/4.3.aspx>

Government House Bombing

<https://ntl.nt.gov.au/story/bombing-darwin>

Mr and Mrs Abbott

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/'And+the+Sphinx+smiled'+Aubrey+and+Hilda+Abbott%2c+Darwin%2c+1937-46.-a0126849913>

<https://northernterritory.com/articles/women-at-war>

Manunda

ANMM The Commons - Hospital ship MANUNDA in Sydney Harbour, 17th August 1940, No restrictions, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11962769>

Painting

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C176865>

Teacher Questions on Story: The Bombing of Government House

Page	Possible Questions
5	What do you know about the bombing of Darwin? Why do think Mr Abbott was concerned?
7	Where is the Australian flag now?
11	How do you think Mrs Abbott felt? What do you think the drive would have been like? How many raids were there?
13	Why were the dead quickly buried? Why was it important to rebury those killed? Why should we remember them today?

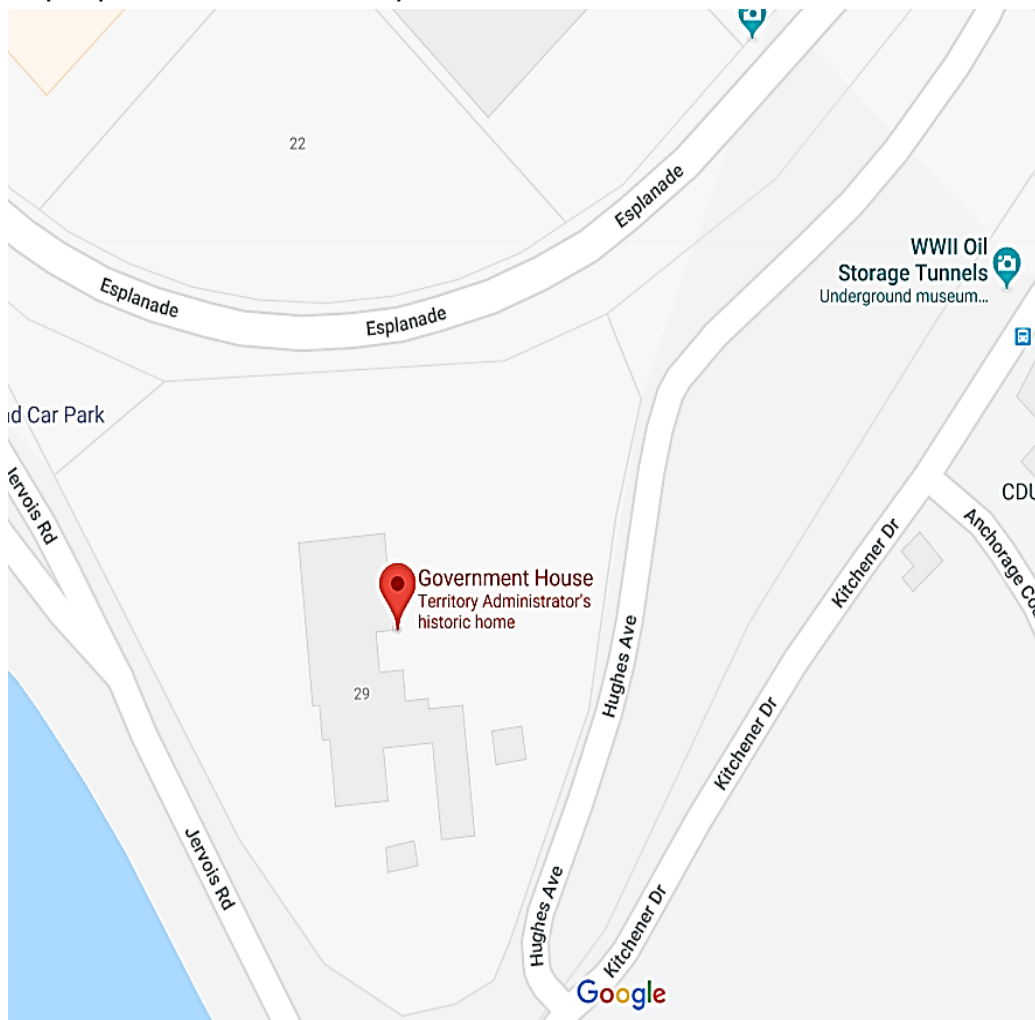
Excursion Activity 1. Government House: What can I find?

Find where these things were at Government House during the bombing. Use the map to record their location. *Where was:*

1. The office that was used as the air raid shelter. How long do you think it took to get a bag of essentials and run from the house to the office? Measure the time it takes.
2. The verandah where they sat on the morning of the first bombing raid
3. The flag that was shot by the Japanese
4. Where the old Post Office and the postmaster's residence used to be

Find also:

5. The plaque dedicated to Daisy.



6. Imagine how big the crater was. If one step is about one foot, pace out the size of the crater left in the garden at Government House. Draw it to scale on the map.

Excursion Activity 2. A Walking Tour

1. After your tour of Government House, visit the following to find out more. Take a rubbing or photo of the plaques.

Go to the:

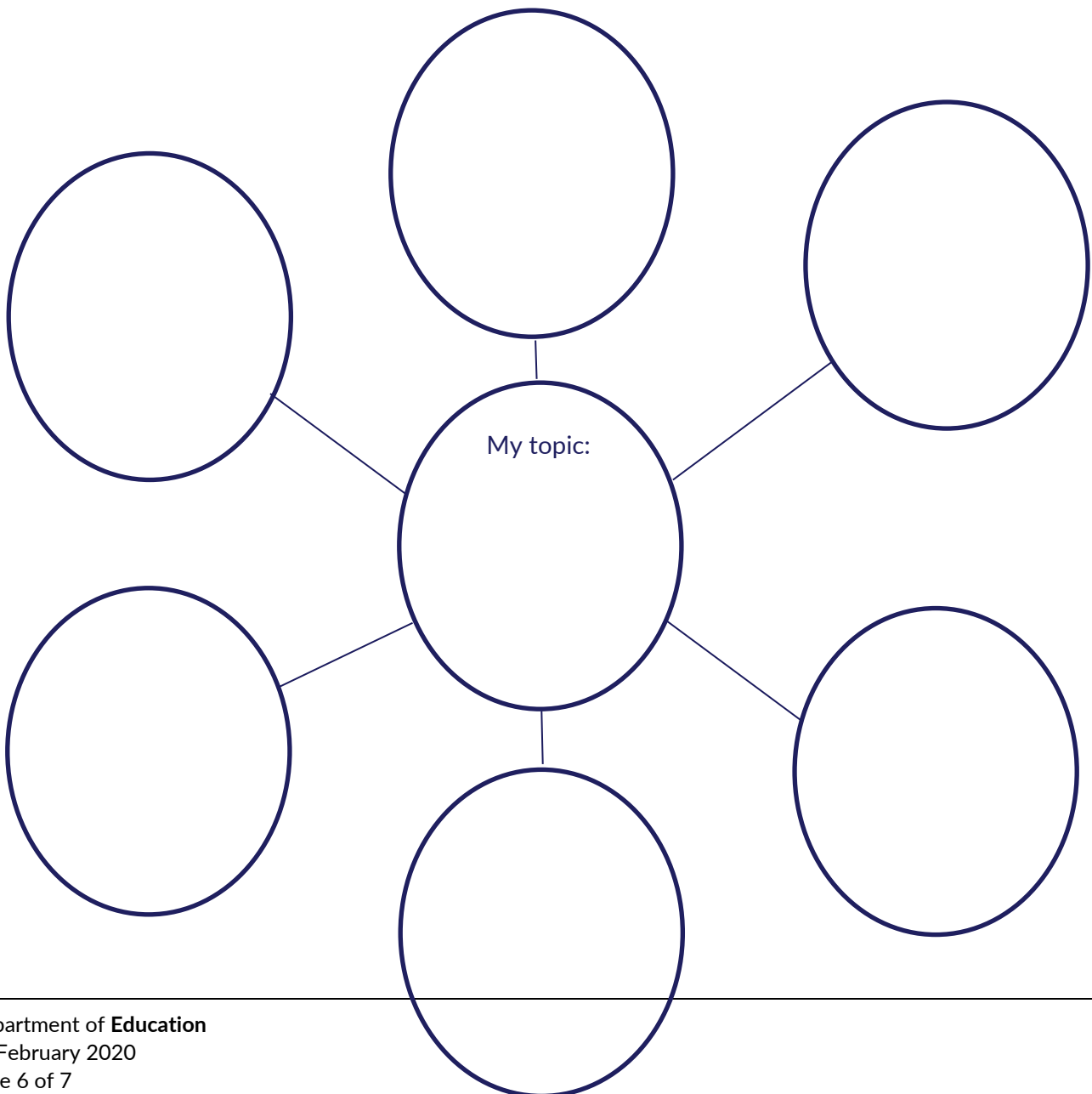
2. Large rock just outside of Government House and read what it says.
3. Nearby shelter and read the information in it.
4. Cenotaph on the Esplanade and find who is commemorated there.
5. Northern Territory Library and find:
 - a. Shrapnel
 - b. The wall from the Post Office
 - c. Any other ways the bombing of Darwin has been commemorated.
6. Darwin Post Office to view the memorial plaques.
7. Darwin City Council and view the memorial plaques.
8. Adelaide River Cemetery and find those killed on 19th February 1942.

Why do we have all these places commemorating the bombing of Darwin? Record your thinking here:

School Activity 3. Find out more

Choose one the following to find out what happened. Use the mind map to plan your research questions further.

1. What happened at the post office?
2. What happened to the ships, 'Manunda' and 'Neptuna'? What happened to the other ships?
3. What happened to the staff when they got to Alice Springs?
4. What happened to Mr and Mrs Abbott?
5. Or your own question.



School Activity 4. My Letter.

Imagine you could go back in time and give Mr and Mrs Abbott a letter from you. What would you say to them? Tell them what think about the bombing of Darwin and what is done today to remember what happened. Also let them know how you feel about the bombing. Write your letter here:

A large rectangular box with a decorative border of small squares. Inside the box, there are several horizontal lines for writing. The lines are arranged in a way that suggests a letter format: a short line at the top right for an address, followed by a long line on the left for a salutation, then several long lines for the body of the letter, and finally two short lines at the bottom right for a closing and signature.