

Year 2 Teacher Guide: Government House, Darwin

The House on the Hill

Learning Area: History Stage of Schooling: Year 2

Topic: Our past and present connections to people and places

Knowledge and Understanding:

Students will investigate the history of a chosen person, building, site or landmark in the local community using sources (for example, books, newspapers, oral histories, audiovisual material, digital sources, letters, photographs) and relating a story which these reveal about the past

Achievement Standard:

By the end of Year 2, students describe a person, site and/or event of significance in the local community. They identify how and why the lives of people have changed over time while others have remained the same. Students sequence events in order, using a range of terms related to time. They pose questions about the past and use sources provided to answer these questions and to identify a point of view. They compare objects from the past and present. Students develop a narrative about the past using a range of texts.

Inquiry Questions:

- What aspects of the past can you see today? What do they tell us?
- What remains of the past are important to the local community? Why?

Lesson: The House on the Hill

Learning Intention:

Students will use the tour of Government House to investigate what life was like in early Darwin.

Success Criteria:

Students will -

Question:	What aspects of Government House tell us about the past? What do they tell us about our local community?
Research:	Government House to investigate the building, its construction and how it is maintained.
Analyse:	By comparing and contrasting the story with Government House today to determine the differences.
Evaluate:	To decide upon the advantages and disadvantages of the two settings.
Communicate:	By creating and sharing ideas about how the building could be improved. Researching and sharing information about life at the time.

Supporting Materials:

Story: The House on the Hill

Suggested Questions

Activity Sheets:

Excursion Activity 1. Government House - in the Future

Excursion Activity 2. My Tour

School Activity 1. Building Government House

School Activity 2. Government House – Problems

School Activity 3. Find out more

Suggested Sequence:

- Read and discuss the story.
- Complete school activities 1-3.
- Complete excursion activities 1 or 2.

Additional Resources

Daly Harriet, "[Digging, Squatting, and Pioneering Life in the Northern Territory of South ... \(1887\)](https://archive.org/details/diggingsquattin00dalygoog)"
<https://archive.org/details/diggingsquattin00dalygoog>

Daly Harriet, NT Stories, <http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/jspui/handle/10070/218049>

Sweet, Samuel White, 1825-1886, Darwin Collection, Camp and Government Resident's house. c 1870.
State Library of South Australia, oai:collections.slsa.sa.gov.au:(AuASA)b20223535, B 4637.

Sweet, Samuel White, 1825-1886, Darwin Collection, Palmerston. Government House, and camp. c 1870.
State Library of South Australia, oai:collections.slsa.sa.gov.au:(AuASA) b20224138, B 9746

[Foelsche, P. \(Paul\), 1831-1914](#), Government Garden, 1876. Northern Territory Library, PH1060/0032.

Termites, 2019. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Termite>

Teacher Questions on Story: The First Government House

Page	Possible Questions
5	Why would Captain Douglas want separate from Palmerston camp? Why would Captain Douglas want so many rooms?
6	Why was the kitchen 'detached'?
9	Is lime used today? How is wood sawn today? What type of wood is used in houses now?
10	Why did the wood 'warp and shrink'?
12	How much does a house cost today? What do you think a signal cannon was used for? Predict what you think the 'invaders' are.
15	What would be the problem of another storey on the house? What is a squall?
17	Why didn't Mr Scott know about the invaders at all?
19	Why couldn't they stop them?
21	How far is 18 feet?
23	How many gables can you see in the photo? Is there any wood in the building now?
24	Are termites a problem still?

Excursion Activity 1. Government House – in the Future

Imagine what Government House might be like in 100 years. You are to design a time capsule to leave at Government House today so people in 100 years can open it. Think about what you would put in the box from Government House to show people what it is like today.

Government House Time Capsule



Excursion Activity 2. Government House – My Tour

Use the plan of Government House to plan your tour of Government House.

Make sure that you include all the important things to see in the building.



School Activity 1. Building Government House

Imagine that you are Captain Douglas. Plan your new house.

Building Materials needed	Floor: Walls: Roof:
Design	

School Activity 2. Government House - Problems

Create a short cartoon sequence to explain what happened to the house.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.

School Activity 3. Government House – Find out More

Find out more about something from in the story about building Government House. It could be: how termites live, what buildings are made from or another topic.

Draw a mind map of the questions you have and what you want to find out more about.

