



Upper primary/lower secondary
(ages 8+)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** Humanities and Social Sciences
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Investigate historical, geographic, civic and economic concepts and ideas
- Develop critical and creative thinking

THEMES

- The making of the modern world
- Australian explorers & settlement
- Significance of country and place to ATSI
- Diversity and contributions
- Australia's development
- Prehistory and ancient history
- Human and natural impact on the environment
- Progressive ideas and movement – Unionism, Feminism, Multiculturalism
- The Australian relationship with the world
- Empires and colonisation
- Nationalism
- Historical questions and research
- Primary and secondary sources
- Aboriginal Australia

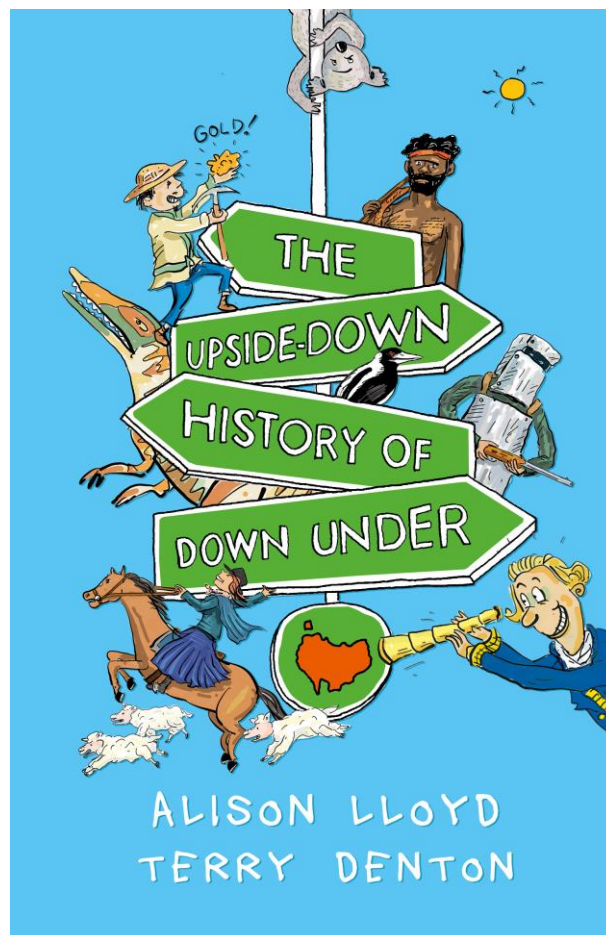
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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The Upside-down History of Down Under

Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton

SUMMARY

200 million years of Australian history in 304 pages!

By the acclaimed creators of *Wicked Warriors*, *Evil Emperors* and *Dragons*, *Devils and Rebels*.

The true story of Australia starts with a piece of land that went for a swim. About 200 million of years ago it floated away from Africa. Very, very, slowly. It was home to dinosaurs and giant animals, then the first Australians showed up and got comfortable.

And for a long time this wild and wonderful land was a mystery to the rest of the world. Until the English decided to make it the biggest jail ever . . .

Funny, heroic and tragic – the story of our country from prehistory to federation (1901).

An enjoyable read but also perfect for the classroom – particularly relevant to the National Curriculum Foundation to Year 6 Humanities. The curriculum explores 'who we are and who came before us' at each

year level. Like *Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors* and *Dragons, Devils and Rebels* this book brings history to life. There is a great deal of accessible history for kids on the subject of European history, but a shortage of readable histories of Australia for this age group and none that cover the history of Australia from the creation of the continent to Federation.

F-6 Curriculum topics covered

Science:

- Human and natural impact on the environment
- Natural disasters

History:

- Continuity and change in daily lives & local area- Past and present
- History of a significant person, building or natural in local area
- Australian explorers & settlement
- Continuity and change local community, region, state - Past and present
- Significance of Country and Place to ATSI
- Early European explorers, First Fleet – impact on Indigenous
- Australian celebrations, symbols, emblems
- Diversity and contributions to shaping local area
- Timeline of Australia's development – our colonial past and its effect
- Continuity and change in the diverse groups in Australia
- Contributions of significant Australians
- People and events which contributed to Australia's development
- Democracy & citizenship
- Migration, Federation

Geography

- Features and changes of the local area
- ATSI connection to land
- Neighbouring countries and major countries of Africa & South America
- Australian States, Territories and major natural and human characteristics
- ATSI connection to land & sustainability
- Major countries of Europe & North America

- Australia's location & diversity within the Asian region
- Differences in countries across the world – demographic, economic, social, cultural characteristics
- Impact of floods, bushfires

Rather than bogging students down in heavy and complicated historic facts, Alison Lloyd's text is broken down into small areas of interest, full of anecdotes, questions and primary source quotations to help bring the information to life and make it more accessible to young readers. Useful hints on the pronunciation and meaning of difficult and important words further increase its accessibility.

Terry Denton's illustrations depict the information in humorous cartoons adding interest and entertainment that keeps even the most reluctant History students entertained.

This book lends itself well to teaching not only this period of History, but examining a number of History skills and issues, essential for the study of any topic. It provides an excellent tool to increase students' enthusiasm in the subject whilst also increasing their historical knowledge.

With the emphasis in the National Curriculum on History, it is good to have such a user-friendly text available. Many of the skills and issues that arise during this book will also lend themselves to an examination of issues in European and Asian history.

Further information on bibliographic sources and an index is available on www.alisonlloyd.com.au

Many of the teachers' resources below are also appropriate for Humanities subjects in the secondary school classroom in the years 7 to 9, especially in the areas of Civics and Citizenship and History.

7-9 Curriculum topics covered

Civics and Citizenship

- Citizenship, diversity and identity
- Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, and what it means to be Australian
- How national identity can shape a sense of belonging in Australia's multicultural society

History

The ancient world:

- The theory that people moved out of Africa around 60 000 BC (BCE) and migrated to other parts of the world, including Australia



- The evidence for the emergence and establishment of ancient societies
- Key features of ancient societies (farming, trade, social classes, religion, rule of law)

The ancient to modern world:

- The emergence of ideas about the world and the place of people in it by the end of the period (such as the Renaissance, the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment)

The making of the modern world:

- The nature and significance of the Industrial Revolution and how it affected living and working conditions, including within Australia
- The nature and extent of the movement of peoples in the period (slaves, convicts and settlers)
- The extent of European imperial expansion and different responses, including in the Asian region
- The emergence and nature of significant economic, social and political ideas in the period, including nationalism

Depth studies:

- Making a Better World? (Progressive ideas and movements, The Industrial Revolution or Movement of peoples)
- Australia and Asia

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton are the creators of the history books *Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors* and *Dragons, Devils and Rebels*. Individually, Alison has written such books as *Do You Dare: Bushranger's Boys*, *Our Australian Girl: The Letty Stories*, and *Year of the Tiger* and its sequel *Battle of the Jade Horse*, while Terry has written or illustrated a vast number of amazing books, including the world-famous Treehouse series (with Andy Griffiths) and the picture books *Jandamarra* and *Boomerang and Bat* (with Mark Greenwood).

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Alison says:

What did colonial squatters use for toilet paper?

That's a question that gets school audiences engaged. How our home, Australia, came to be – that also interests kids. I think history is the 'where do I come from?' question on a larger, social scale. We've already got many great books for children on historical issues, like the convicts, the gold rushes and the Anzacs particularly. But nothing that tells our story from Gondwana to Federation, in one volume.

This book started with an image in my head. I saw a land on the loose, a continent that makes a break from the rest of the world and does its own unique thing – upside-down Down Under. I wanted to write an Australia-centric story, to look at history from a different angle to other (Euro-centric) perspectives. I don't in any way claim to be the first to do that. I've relied on the work of many other Australian writers and historians. But I might be the first author rash enough to cram 200 million years of Australian history into slightly more pages. Certainly I'm lucky to be the first to do it alongside Terry Denton's delightful illustrations.

In the pages of this upside-down history some of our colonial heroes come out grubbier and worse for wear. But unexpected men and women of the moment also show up. Did you know, for example, that the Womanhood Suffrage League met in the tea-rooms of Quong Tart, a Chinese-born Sydneysider who played the bagpipes? Or that in 1848 Galmarra, an Aboriginal man from NSW, braved crocodile-infested Queensland rivers, alone, to reach a rescue ship with explorer Kennedy's notes? Australia's history has upsides and downsides. We need to see them both. It's my hope *The Upside-down History of Down Under* gives our kids a lot to think about and a lot to enjoy.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Engaging with stories of people, places and events

- How and when did your family come to Australia? Or has your family been here for tens of thousands of years? Interview a family member for more detail of your earliest-known Australian ancestors.
- Choose a topic or place from Australia's history. Use the index (found online) to locate related information in the book.
- What area of Australia do you live in? Research the local Aboriginal or Islander people. Can you discover any words from the local language?
- When did colonists moved into your area and why? What about the landscape made that part of Australia a good home for local Aboriginal or Islander people and what made colonists interested in moving there? Was it the same thing?
- What area of Australia do you live in? Research the local dinosaurs, megafauna and native animals.
- Research a species of animal that has been introduced into Australia p18 and pp 210–212. When was it brought here and why? What impact did it have?



Primary and secondary sources

- Discuss the difference between primary and secondary sources. Identify the information in one chapter as either a primary or a secondary source.
- What are the benefits and weaknesses of a primary source? What are the benefits and weaknesses of a secondary source?
- What is the context in which the sources were written? Use your research skills to find out something more about one of the authors quoted. What was their cultural background? What was their interest in Australia and their motivation – how did that influence what they have said? What were they hoping to achieve with this quote?
- Use primary sources to find quotes, facts and pictures about a memorable person you have read about. Compile these into a poster that portrays what you find memorable about them.
- Imagine yourself interviewing a person from the book. Write a series of questions and answers, drawing on primary sources where possible.

People

- Choose two people from the book who faced similar situations. Make a chart to show similarities and differences in how they responded. What do you think about the decisions they each made? What would you have done in their place?
- Who is the most memorable person you have read about? Use primary sources to find quotes, facts and pictures relating to that person's life. Compile these into a collage or poster that portrays what you find most memorable about them.
- Imagine yourself interviewing a person from the book. Write a series of questions and answers, drawing on primary sources where possible.
- Who made a significant contribution to Australia as a nation? Imagine you are responsible for selecting five people to be portrayed on Australia's bank notes. Explain the reasons for your selection.

Places and environment

- Australia is known for its unique wildlife. Research an animal or plant that is used as the symbol of your state. Find out what makes it unique.
- Make a table comparing life in a time covered in this book with now. What did transportation, homes, food, entertainment, clothing and jobs look like then, compared to now?

Events

- Make a quiz game of true/false or multiple-choice questions using events described in the book. Test your friends to see who remembers the most accurately.
- Recreate an event from the book in a video. Possibilities include live action, paper cut-out characters, 2D drawings or stop-motion animation.
- Choose a memorable event from the book. Imagine you are watching or involved in this event from one person's perspective. Write a series of tweets (140 characters or less) that this person could post as the event unfolds, describing what is happening and their reaction. Don't forget the hashtags!
- Choose an event from the book where at least two people were involved. Create an imaginary exchange of text messages between them. You may like to follow the event as it happened or imagine that different decisions were made to change the outcome.
- Choose an event from the book and create a flowchart or cause and effect web to show the events leading up to and after it.

Communication

- What does the cover tell you about the content of the book?
- Have you read another history of Australia? What is different about the voice and tone of this book? How are the books structured?
- How do the primary and secondary sources in the breakout boxes contribute to the telling of the story? What do they add to the reading?
- How does the book's title relate to its content? What does it refer to? Suggest another title for this book.

Storytelling

- Choose one of the historical stories from the book. Re-tell it visually in a series of 12 Terry Denton-style illustrations that summarise the key points.
- Choose one of the historical stories in the book. Re-write it as a script for a play, then act it out.
- Recreate an event from the book in a video. Possibilities include live action, paper cut-out characters, 2D drawings or stop-motion animation.
- Choose a memorable person and create a Facebook profile for them. Include sections for personal information, friends, location check-ins, pictures and a status update or two.



- Create a piece of art to reflect on one of the stories or a period of history and how it makes you feel.
- Write a dialogue between two people from the book with opposing views, arguing each person's case.

Reading a map

- Find one of the maps of Australia and mark the places you have been to.
- Examine the 'upside down' map in the book (p88). Since the world is round and has no right or wrong way up, how a map is drawn tells us a lot about who made the map. What does the 'upside down' map in the book tell us about who made it compared to the person who drew the 'standard' modern world map at the beginning of the book?

Identity

- Choose a period of history represented in the book. During this period, what did it mean to be 'Australian'? How might different people answer that question depending on their cultural background, gender, class, wealth or other factors? How might two real-life characters in this story see their identity differently?

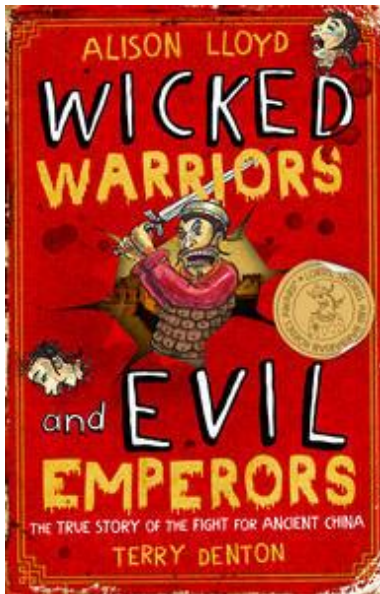
- How would you feel if aliens came to Australia now and decided to make it their home? What would you do? Write a reflection piece.
- Who do you identify with in this book? What about your own background and life so far makes you interested in that person and his or her struggles and triumphs?
- Imagine you are responsible for choosing five people to be on Australia's bank notes. Explain the reasons for your selection.

Constructing a timeline

- Examine a timeline from the book (p32, 38, 172, 278). Choose another period of history that interests you and construct a timeline from research.
- Discuss the fact that BC dates run in a different direction from AD dates, in that the larger the number the further back in time it is. Imagine you are explaining this concept to a class and prepare a three-minute speech.
- Construct a personal timeline of your life.
- Choose an event from the book and create a flowchart or cause and effect web to show the events leading up to and after it.

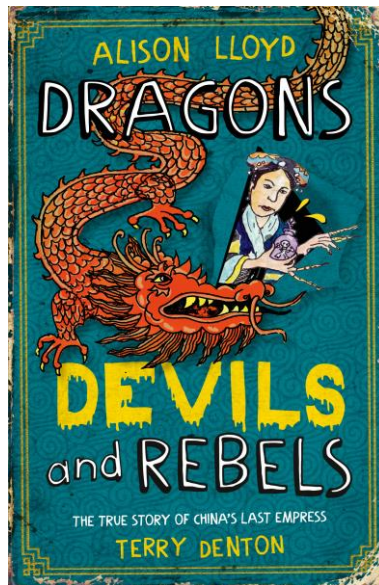


FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



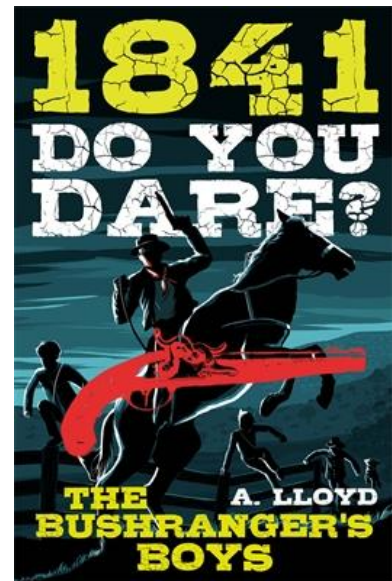
Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors: the true story of the fight for ancient China by Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton

For anyone who likes their history funny, gruesome, action-packed and thrilling – the true page-turning story of China's first emperor.



Dragons, Devils and Rebels: the true story of China's Last Empress by Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton

When an unknown girl marries the Emperor of China, can she take control and stay in power? Could you? Imagine you were faced with: Dragons, Emperors who had run China for two thousand years, Devils, strange foreigners invading with guns and ships, and Rebels, Chinese bandits and warriors with supernatural powers . . .



Do You Dare: The Bushranger's Boys by Alison Lloyd

Do you dare . . .

Confront a bully?

Steal to protect someone?

Hide a bushranger?

It's an adventure in Australian history.

Do You Dare?

An exciting, action-packed adventure set in 1841.

ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
The Upside-down History of Down Under	Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton	9780143788669	8+	\$24.99		
The Story of Australia	Robert Lewis	9780857983145	10+	\$34.99		
Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors	Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton	9780143786887	10+	\$17.95		
Do You Dare: The Bushranger's Boys	Alison Lloyd	9780143307563	8+	\$14.99		
Dragons, Devils and Rebels	Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton	9780143309048	10+	\$17.99		
History Mysteries: The Lost Explorer	Mark Greenwood	9780143309277	8+	\$12.99		
The Burnt Stick	Anthony Hill	9780140369298	7+	\$16.99		
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