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How to use this book

Appropriate for use in the middle and upper primary years, this book may be used in a wide variety of ways, including:

- For a two- to three-week Society and Environment work unit
- As the framework of an integrated unit of work
- As a single lesson focusing on a specific topic, such as the Australian Capital Territory
- As interesting short texts for use in literacy groups
- For comprehension activities
- For student assignments

Each unit utilises the same framework – an informative one-page text, a comprehension activity with questions incorporating each level of comprehension, a unit overview, suggested activities and a resource page.

Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the flexible nature of this series. *Australia's profiles and people* focuses on culture, and two other titles focus on history and geography.

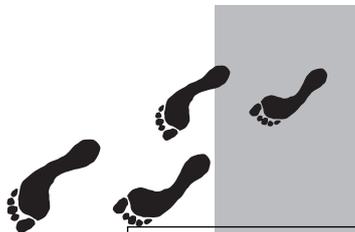
Australia's places

- The land
- Oceans and seas
- Deserts
- Mountains
- Antarctica
- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Northern Territory
- Western Australia
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria

Australia's past

- The first inhabitants
- Dutch explorers
- Captain James Cook
- The First Fleet
- The convicts
- Development of the sheep industry
- The squatters
- Exploration: across the Blue Mountains
- Exploration: Charles Sturt
- The gold rushes
- The Eureka Stockade
- Exploration: John McDouall Stuart
- Exploration: Burke and Wills
- Federation
- Exploration: Sir Douglas Mawson
- World War I
- World War II
- The Vietnam War





Caroline Chisholm

Caroline Chisholm will forever be remembered as the 'Immigrant's Friend'.

Today when immigrants arrive in our country they are given a great deal of help by the government. However in the early days of Australia there was practically no help for the many poor immigrants who arrived from England. They were simply landed on the wharf in Sydney and left to look after themselves as best they could. Very few had any money to buy food and most suffered greatly before they could find work and a place to live.

The first person to befriend immigrants was an English woman named Caroline Chisholm. In 1838 she had come to Sydney from India with her children and husband.

She was very distressed when she saw how badly the immigrants were being treated. She was able to persuade the Governor, Sir George Gipps, to allow her to house those homeless immigrants in an old army barracks. Next she provided food as well as shelter for these unfortunate people.

Her next goal was to help the immigrants, mostly young women, find work. To do this she would take a group of young girls on the hazardous paths across the Blue Mountains and find them work in the newly settled farms. In time the governor realised what a wonderful job this noble woman was doing and began to help her. Along with the government she then worked hard to encourage more families to immigrate rather than just single women or men.

In 1842 she became Australia's first female author when she published a book on female immigration.

In 1846 she returned to Britain where she established an immigration scheme to assist people wishing to migrate to Australia.

Mrs Chisholm died in England in 1877 and on her tombstone is inscribed these very true words: The Immigrant's Friend.





Answer the following comprehension questions in full sentences.

1. Caroline Chisholm was not only a friend to immigrants, but she also achieved another distinction. What was this?
2. How did Mrs Chisholm obtain work for many of the young female migrants?
3. What parts of Caroline's own life may have been responsible for her wanting to help immigrants?
4. How may Caroline's own experience as an immigrant have helped her to help new immigrants to Australia's shores?
5. List five words that you feel appropriately describe the type of woman Caroline Chisholm was.
6. Identify reasons why people might have chosen to immigrate to Australia. Record them.
7. Why was the government of the time promoting the immigration of families rather than just single men and women?
8. What do you imagine may have been some of the important elements of Caroline's immigration scheme?
9. During this time in history, how might being a female immigrant differ from being a male immigrant?
10. In what ways do you imagine the experience of being an immigrant has changed?
11. In what ways do you imagine the experience of being an immigrant has stayed the same?
12. Do you think Caroline did these wonderful deeds for glory and recognition? What makes you think this way?
13. Has life changed very much for a woman since the mid 1800s? Identify some of the ways that are apparent from the text about Caroline's life.
14. Do you find Caroline Chisholm's life to be an inspiring one? Explain why or why not?
15. How might Caroline Chisholm be a role model for others such as yourself?
16. Explain the inscription on Caroline's tombstone. Suggest another appropriate alternative.
17. How would you like to be remembered?





PROFILE OVERVIEW

Key learning areas

- Can describe the contribution made by Caroline Chisholm to the early migrants coming to Australia
- Understands what is meant by a multi cultural society

Useful vocabulary

migrants	poverty	England
destitute	barracks	governor
emigration	befriended	shelter
unfortunate	assists	schemes
immigration	hazardous	

Interesting facts

- In 1841, at the age of 33, Caroline Chisholm was granted permission to open a Female Immigrants Home in a disused barracks building near Circular Quay in Sydney
- Caroline Chisholm's husband was a captain in the British Army. He was born a Catholic so Caroline became a Catholic too.
- A migrant ship was named Caroline Chisholm in her honour.
- Caroline Chisholm and her husband remained poor all their lives. They both died in England in 1877.
- By 1846, Caroline had assisted more than 11 000 migrants.
- Caroline Chisholm's achievements were honoured when she appeared on the Australian five-dollar note in 1966.
- There was a great deal of controversy when, in 1992, a plastic five-dollar note was designed and issued – without the presence of Caroline Chisholm.





Suggested activities

- On a sheet of art paper, draw a picture about Caroline Chisholm and her wonderful work.
- Write a paragraph explaining how the government assists immigrants coming to Australia today.
- Imagine you are an immigrant who has just arrived from England or another country. You are destitute and have no place to stay. Write a letter home to a friend describing your feelings.
- Imagine that you are a new immigrant who has been helped by Caroline Chisholm. Write a diary entry reflecting on how she has improved your experience as an immigrant to Australia.
- Research statistics about immigration to Australia during the 1800s. How many immigrants came? From what countries were they migrating? Use the map on the Resource Page to highlight which countries were significantly involved in immigration to Australia. Identify reasons for their departure (war, poverty, unemployment etc.).
- To what other country would you migrate? Provide thoughtful reasons for your choice.
- Investigate the role of women in society during the 1800s. Compare this to today. How does that make Caroline's achievements even more remarkable than they already are?
- Research and record the advantages of immigrating to Australia in the 1800s.
- Research and record the disadvantages of immigrating to Australia in the 1800s.
- Compare and contrast the above results with the advantages and disadvantages of immigrating to Australia in the 2000s.
- Write a commemorative history of Caroline Chisholm's life. Make a time line of her work.
- In what ways has Australia acknowledged and remembered Caroline's work.
- What would be an appropriate way to commemorate Caroline's work today? Plan and design a realistic way in which Australian's could celebrate Caroline's achievements.

