

# History of Libraries

## Focus Questions

1. What is your favourite book at the moment? Discuss with another student.
2. How long have we had libraries?
3. What were the books in the Library of Ashurbanipal made from?
4. Where was the Library of Alexandria built? Find using Google Maps.
5. What year was Australia's first public library built?
  - a. 323BCE
  - b. 1854
  - c. 1954
6. Complete the following sentence. Libraries are usually funded by \_\_\_\_\_ governments.
7. How have libraries changed over time?
8. What type of technology is available at the library in the BTN story?
9. Illustrate an aspect of the BTN story.
10. What do you like about libraries? Discuss as a class.

## Activity

### Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN *History of Libraries* story as a class using the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is your favourite book at the moment? Tell a classmate about the book you are reading and what you like about it.
- Why do we have libraries? Make a list of reasons.
- Why is it important to have libraries?
- What's your favourite thing about going to the library?

## Activity

### Glossary

Ask students to brainstorm as many words as they can think of that relate to books and reading and record their responses as a class. Below are some words to get them started:

Illustrator	Setting	Non-fiction
Genre	Character	Author
Narrative	Theme	Plot

## Key Learning

Students will explore the history of libraries and why they are important. Students will create their own creative story including developing storylines, characters and settings.

## Curriculum

### English – Year 4

Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories exciting, moving and absorbing and hold readers' interest by using various techniques, for example character development and plot tension

Create literary texts by developing storylines, characters and settings

### English – Year 5

Create literary texts using realistic and fantasy settings and characters that draw on the worlds represented in texts students have experienced

Create literary texts that experiment with structures, ideas and stylistic features of selected authors

### English – Year 6

Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways

## Activity

### Book Review

Students will choose a book they have read this year or a [Book of the Year](#) winner for 2019 and then write their own book review. Students will respond to the following:

- Write a concise description of the plot.
- Who are the main characters in the book?
- What are the themes in the book?
- What did you like or dislike about the book?
- Would you recommend the book to other kids your age? Why or why not?
- Include an illustration with your review. It could be a sketch of the front cover or one of the characters from the story.
- Write a letter to the author of the book explaining your views on the book and asking any questions you have about the book.



## Activity

### Book Club

Hold your own class book club! Students will read the same book, either individually or as a class and discuss the story in small groups. Choose a comfortable setting for students to sit before starting the group discussion. Consider having refreshments, like juice and biscuits, for students during the discussion.

Below are some discussion starters for your class book club:

- How would you describe the author's style?
- Who was your favourite character in the book? What did you like about them?
- Imagine what the character looks like and draw a picture of the character. Compare with other student's drawings.

## Activity

### Comparison

Students will choose and explore two stories written by the same author. Students will then compare the stories and find similarities and differences.

	text 1	text 2
subject or theme characterisation text structure plot development tone vocabulary sense of voice narrative point of view visual techniques		

## Activity

### Favourite book

Students will choose their favourite book and complete one of the following activities:

- Redesign the front cover of one of your favourite books. Explain why you chose the design.
- Create a poster that encourages people to read one of your favourite books.
- Rewrite the ending of your favourite book. Explain why you chose to end it the way you did.

## Activity

### Creative writing

As a class, make a list of useful tips for story writing. Include tips on how to build character development, plot tension and narrative. Students will choose one of the following activities to help start the creative writing process.

- Write your own short imaginative piece about a baby and a dinosaur. Start by brainstorming possible scenarios. Remember to bring danger in from where the reader is least expecting it. Experiment with different narrative structures such as flashback and multiple perspectives. Consider making a quick [8-page mini-book](#) from one piece of paper to present your story.
- Ever wonder what happens at the zoo at night? What do the animals get up to when there are no humans watching them? Write a story which is as wild, crazy or as funny as you like. It can be science fiction, fantasy, adventure, or even a realistic story written from the animal's point of view.
- Spark a story! Look through recycled newspapers or magazines for interesting pictures. Alternatively choose your favourite realist painting. Look for pictures that catch your eye and provide strong visuals of characters and settings. Choose one picture to help spark a story. Respond to the following questions: What's happening in the scene, when is it happening, who are the characters, what are they doing? Once you have brainstormed some ideas, begin writing your story about the picture.

## Useful Websites

Book Week 2019 – The Children's Book Council of Australia

<https://www.cbca.org.au/cbca-book-week>

Book Week – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/book-week/10527822>

Young Author – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/young-author/10525934>

Teen novelist – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/teen-novelist/10522576>

Writing Club – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/writing-club/10524206>