

RATS:



A Primary School Education Program at Hyde Park Barracks Museum

Built in 1819 as accommodation for convicts, Hyde Park Barracks Museum provides a unique environment for primary school students to learn about the everyday lives of convicts; their society, technologies, work, leisure, misdemeanours and mischief, as well as the surprising role of rats in the preservation of our convict past.

Learning through participation

In the RATS program, students are given a tour of the museum spaces and displays and then students take on the persona of convicts resident at the Barracks. They meet their overseer and are put to work! Through engaging with the museum and roleplay, they discover the rules, regulations and routines of the convicts who lived here.

Links to syllabus

RATS has been designed to meet Outcomes for Stage 2 HSIE across all four strands, with a particular emphasis on

- CCS2.1: Describes events and actions related to the British colonisation of Australia and assesses changes and consequences.
- CCS3.1: Explains the significance of particular people, groups, places, actions and events in the past in developing Australian identities and heritage.

The program also provides opportunities to pursue learning Outcomes in English and Creative Arts. It provides a unique learning opportunity where students can develop knowledge, skills, values and attitudes about people and their environments.

Booking details

Cost: \$8 per student.

Maximum of 30 students per group.

One teacher/supervisor per 15 students is admitted free.

Programs are available on weekdays from 9:30am - 3pm.

Bookings should be made well in advance.

For more information call **(02) 8239 2311** or see www.hht.net.au



We look forward to your visit.

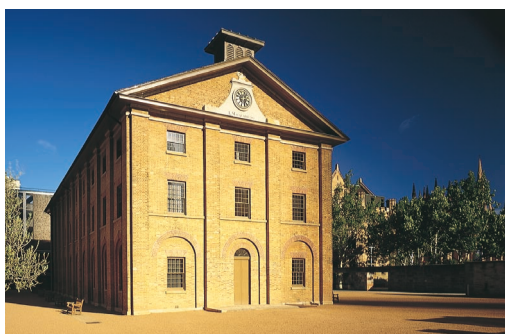
RATS:



Pre-visit Information

Hyde Park Barracks was commissioned by Governor Macquarie and designed by Francis Greenway to accommodate around 600 male convicts. Completed in 1819 it housed convicts for nearly 30 years. It was renovated in 1848 as a women's immigration depot and later as an asylum for old, sick women. Throughout its history it housed a myriad of courts and government offices. In 1984 it became a museum and is now managed by the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales.

Rats played an unusual part in the building's history. Scavenging black rats cohabited with the 19th century residents of the Barracks, hoarding their belongings and refuse beneath the floorboards of the building. During building works in the 1980's, these artefacts were unearthed and now form part of the Museum's collection. Today, this collection of objects gives us a unique insight into the everyday lives of the Barracks' occupants.



Hyde Park Barracks Museum

Queens Square, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

The RATS program

RATS is a fun-filled museum experience and roleplay program in which students take on the persona of convicts living at Hyde Park Barracks in 1833. Students meet their overseer and are put to work at tasks such as brickmaking and bricklaying. They learn about the everyday lives of convicts, their technologies, rules & routines, as well as the mischief they sometimes got into!

Pre visit material

The following pre-visit material consists of:

1. Records of 36 convicts who lived at the barracks. These are the identities which students adopt for their visit. Please distribute an identity to each student prior to visiting the Hyde Park Barracks Museum.
2. Teacher resources:
 - * Descriptions of the types of work performed by government convicts in Sydney.
 - * Sketch of convicts outside the Hyde Park Barracks, from an 1830 engraving by Augustus Earle. This image may be copied or reproduced freely.
 - * Plan of Hyde Park Barracks showing the main features of the complex in convict times.

Convict Identities



Please ensure each student has been given and is familiar with one of these convict identities before visiting Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

Name	Education	Profession or Trade	Crime	Sentence
John BENNETT	R&W*	Clerk to Bolton & Watts	Embezzlement	14 Years
James THOMPSON	R&W	Clerk	House breaking	14 Years
James WALSH	R&W	Clerk & shopman	Stealing sheep	7 Years
George WILLIAMS	R&W	Bricklayer	Receiving stolen property	Life
James JACKSON	R&W	Brickmaker & boatman	Highway robbery	Life
Mark SALMON	None	Brickmaker	Stealing a fowl	14 Years
George IBELL	R&W	Brickmaker	Stealing potatoes	7 Years
William WATERS	R&W	Clerk	House breaking	Life
Robert COWAN	R&W	Slater & bricklayer	Forging a letter	14 Years
Daniel MCDONALD	R&W	Bricklayer	Shop robbery	14 Years
George JONES	R&W	Clerk & seaman R.N.	Receiving	14 Years
Matthew TRIGGS	R	Bricklayer 20 years	Machine breaking	Life
John LANE	R&W	Umbrella & parasol maker	Robbing a counting house	Life
John WHITE	R&W	Bricklayer	Stealing in a dwelling house	7 Years
William HALL	R&W	Bricklayer's labourer	Stealing ducks	7 Years
George KITSON	R&W	Bricklayer complete	House breaking	14 Years
Antonio Antoons PEDRO	None	Seaman	Murder	7 Years
George WORTHINGTON	R&W	Bird stuffer, cotton spinner	Stealing shoes	7 Years
Richard Booth WILSON	R&W	Seaman & distiller	Forgery	Life
Samuel MCCARTHY	R&W	Seaman	Stealing a watch	Life
James ELLIOTT	R&W	Mercantile clerk	Robbing his employer	7 Years
John IREN	R&W	Bricklayer	Returning from the hulks	Life
William PRICE	R&W	Bricklayer (tolerable)	Possessing stolen goods	Life
William HARVEY	R&W	Brickmaker	House breaking	14 Years
Edward URLING	None	Brickmaker & grave digger	Stealing a sheep	Life
John POWDERLY	None	Brickmaker	Stealing a barrel of herrings	7 Years
Michael LINEHAN	R&W	Bricklayer, Mason & Soldier	Striking a Sergeant	14 Years
Richard William HAMILTON	R&W	Schoolmaster	Stealing a horse	Life
George FRY	None	Brickmaker, Ploughs, Reaps, Milks	Stealing clothes	7 Years
Samuel HODGKINS	R	Steel Toy Maker	Burglary	Life
William FRANCIS	R&W	Brickmaker	Stealing clothes	7 Years
Obadiah HUSSELBEE	R&W	Bricklayer & Plasterer	Stealing clothes	7 Years
Joseph CANN	None	Brickmaker	Stealing sheep	Life
Robert DITTON	None	Brickmaker	Breaking into a dwelling house	7 Years
Charles HILL	R	Brickmaker & Lime Burner	Stealing pigeons	7 Years
Walter HOLLIDAY	R&W	Baker & Confectioner	Stealing money	7 Years

* R stands for Reads and W stands for Writes



What did convict workers do?

Convicts from Hyde Park Barracks worked for the government. Other convicts left the Barracks and were assigned to free settlers and emancipists. They worked for them & lived on their properties. Government convicts were divided into gangs and set to work at various locations around Sydney. Below are a few examples of the types of work carried out by these government convicts.

Lumber Yard

In the Sydney Government Lumber Yard located in Bridge Street, convicts worked at a number of trades. There were gangs of carpenters, joiners, woodturners and wheelwrights. Some worked with tin and metal as smiths, tool makers, iron and brass foundries. There were turners and platers, tinmen, farriers, file makers, horse shoers and anchor smiths. Others worked as tailors and shoemakers, gunsmiths, blockmakers and coopers.

Carpenters' Gang

The carpenters' gang included house carpenters, cabinet makers, turners and shinglers. This gang made most components for housing, including roofs, floorings, doors, doorframes and windows. The tools for use by the gang were kept apart and in charge of the Overseer, who would give the workmen their tool as it was required.

Brickmakers' Gang

The brickmakers made the bricks for public works in and around Sydney. The Brickworks were located between Liverpool and Goulburn Streets overlooking Cockle Bay. Bricks were dug, moulded, dried and fired at this site and distributed by carts pulled by convicts. The number of bricks required depended on the demands of the Governor for building works.

The brickmakers' gang included apprentices from Carters' Barracks (a dormitory for convict boys) who would learn the trade.

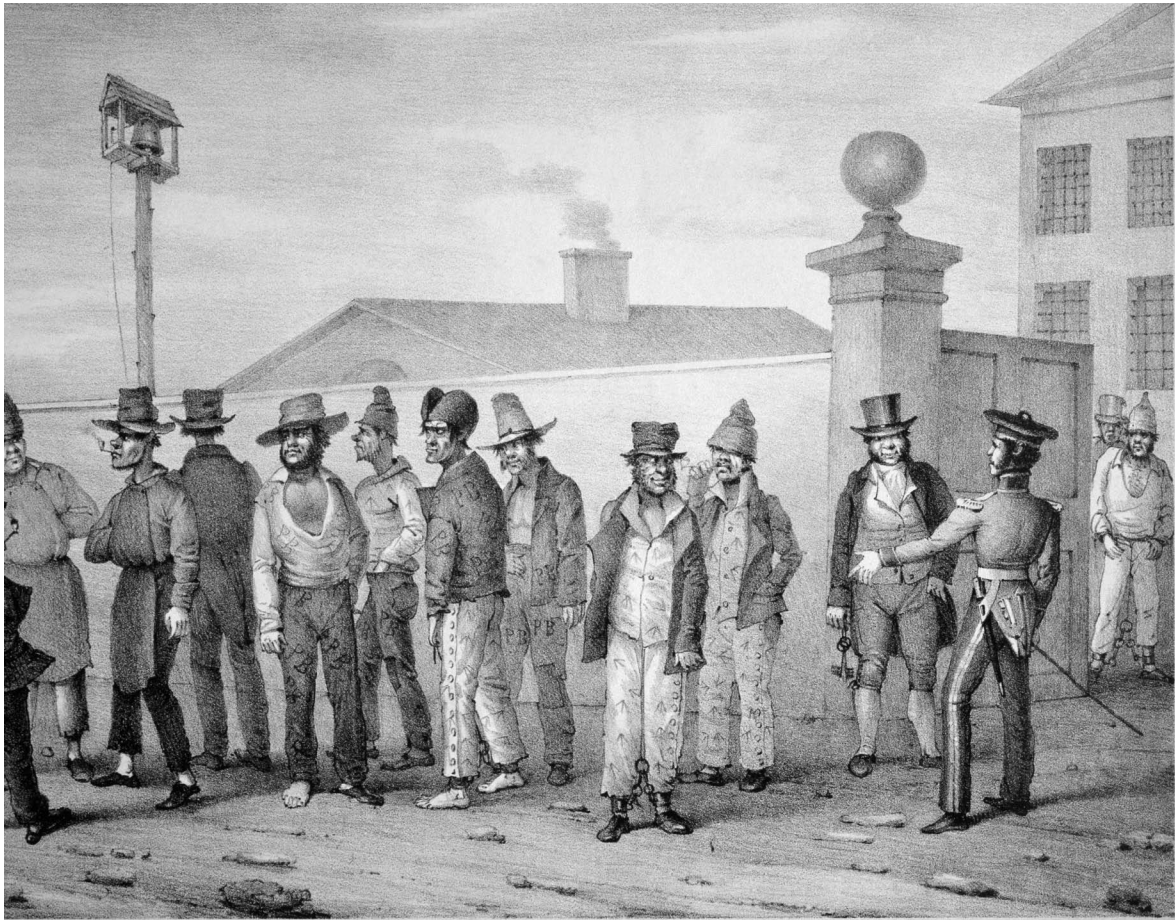
Bricklayers' Gang

The bricklayers' gang was divided up into labourers and mortar men. This gang not only laid bricks, but were employed as stoneworkers, turning the arches in brickwork and making drains and chimneys. Bricklayers laid the bricks and stone in public works such as Hyde Park Barracks and St James Church.

Tailors' Gang

The tailors' gang was tasked with making "slop" clothing (coarse uniforms issued to convicts). Some of the cloth used for this purpose was manufactured at the Female Factory in Parramatta (a Barracks for female convicts).

What did convicts look like?

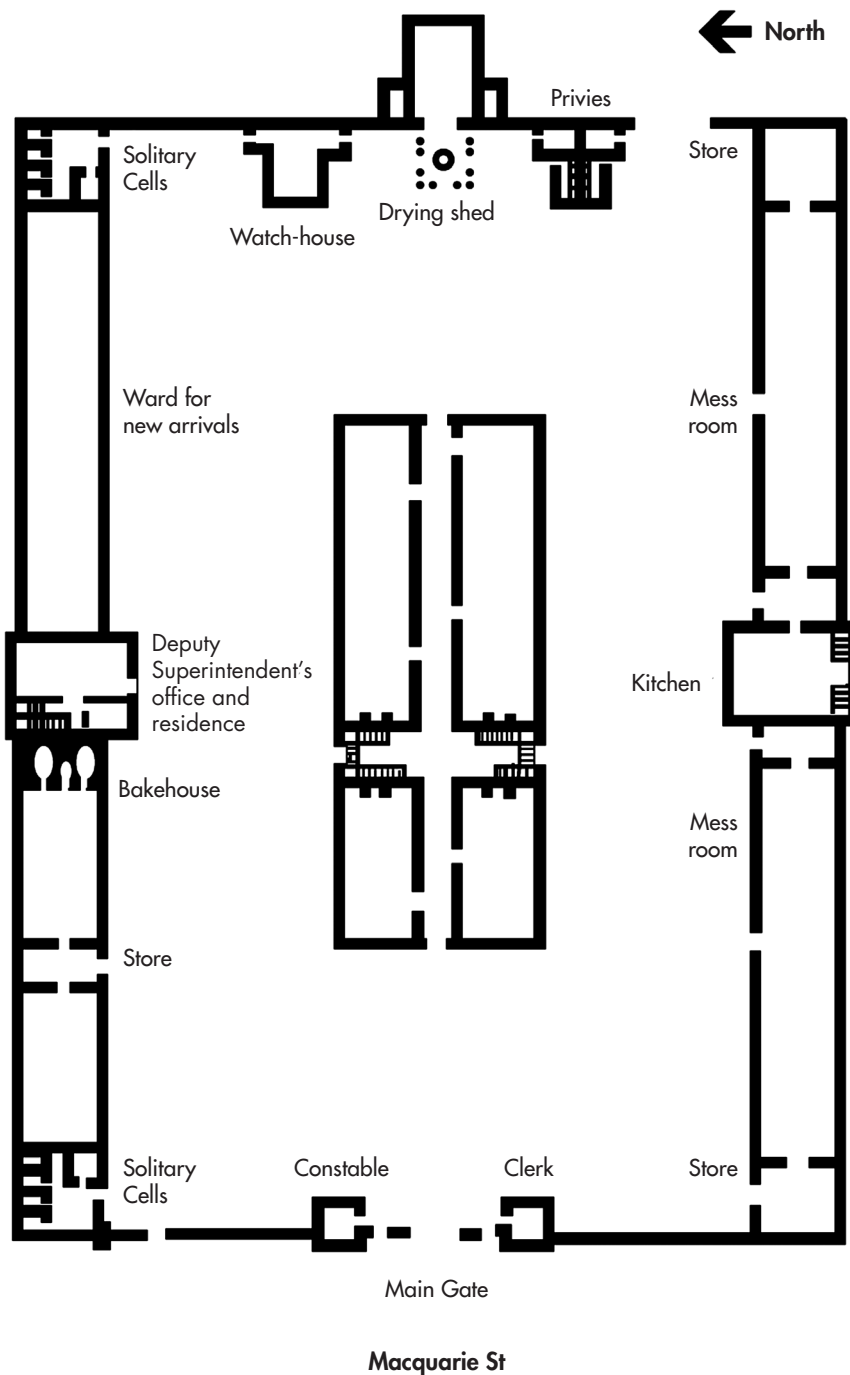


A government jail gang, Sydney N.S.Wales
Augustus Earle, 1830, lithograph
Rex Nan Kivell Collection, National Library of Australia

May be enlarged or reproduced for classroom purposes.



Convict Barracks (1819-1848)



RATS:



Student Evaluation Sheet

Your convict name:

.....

Number of years you were sentenced to:

.....

Crime committed:

.....

What was your favourite part of the museum and why?

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.....

What convict job did you enjoy the most and why?

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.....

.....

Name 3 rules that Jim and Mr. Whall told you during the tour:

1

2

3

Draw a picture of one of the punishments that the Barracks convicts received.