



MATTHEW FLINDERS

ADVENTURES ON LEAKY SHIPS

CAROLE WILKINSON & PRUE PITTOCK



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Synopsis

Matthew Flinders was determined to map the entire coast of the continent we now call Australia. His story is packed to the gunwales with adventure – storms and shipwrecks, death and danger, a race to beat the French – but more than this, it is a story of loyalty to his crew, love for his wife, and affection for the brave little cat who sailed with him.

Writing style

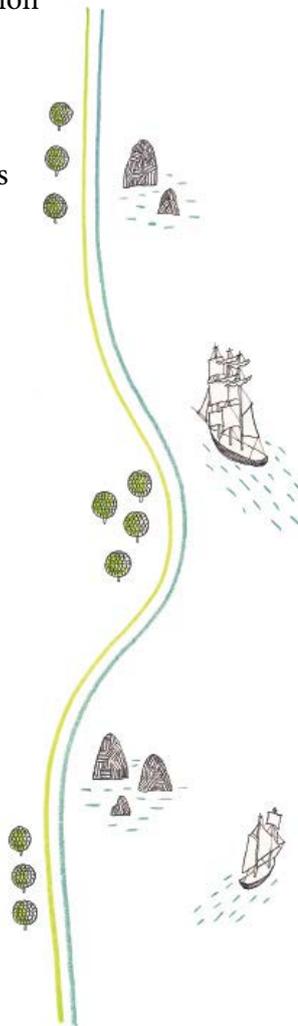
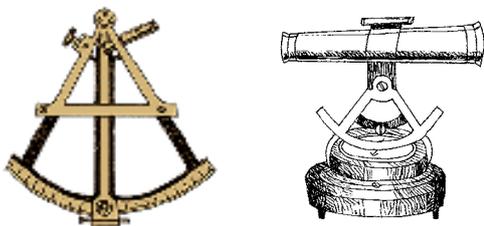
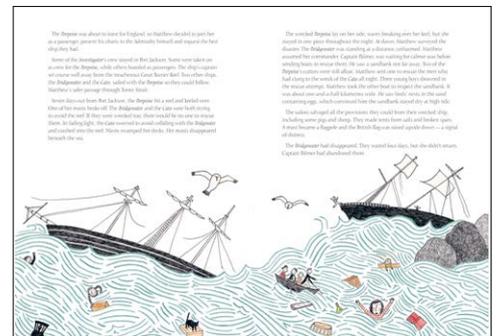
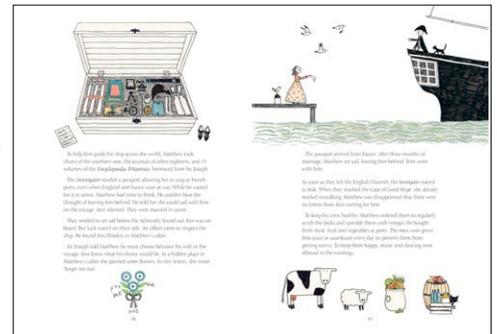
Matthew Flinders: Adventures on leaky ships has been written with the needs of both early and more advanced readers in mind. The simple language, direct writing style and inviting illustrations combine to create an engaging history of this respected explorer-adventurer.

Illustrative style

Matthew Flinders is illustrated by Prue Pittock. Her images are carefully researched and drawn in fine pen, and delicately shaded with watercolour and coloured pencils. The historically narrative images are skillfully filled with a playful and charming wit.

Specifications

Author	Carole Wilkinson	Binding	Hardback
Illustrator	Prue Pittock	Reading level	8+
ISBN	9781742035932	Interest level	8+
Format	297mm x 210mm	Category	Non-Fiction
Extent	32pp + cover		





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Study notes: Themes

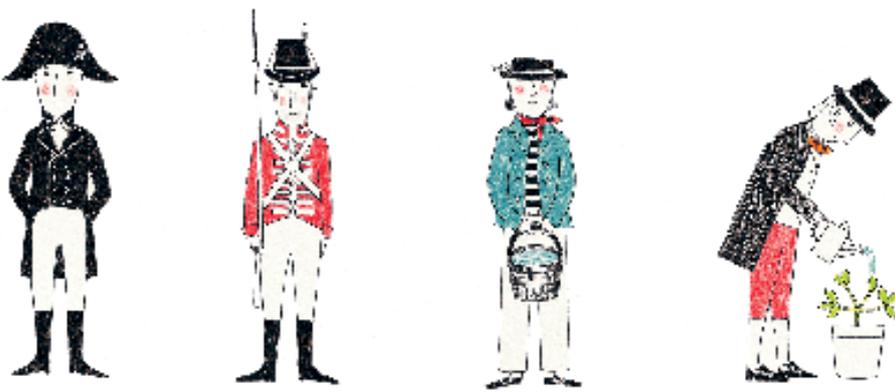
- Descriptive words
- Cartography / mapping
- Mapping of Australia
- World history
- Australian history
- Exploration and discovery
- Geography
- Life at sea
- Dangers of ocean travel
- Navigation and technology
- Oceans
- First Nations Peoples
- Love and duty



Curriculum link: Literacy

Before reading:

- Before looking at the cover, ask students what they think mapping (aka cartography) means. Ask them to draw a map of school from memory. Once finished, compare their results with Google Maps.
- Ask each student to make a list of directions to get from their classroom to the school's front gate. Discuss their findings.
- Ask students what they think life would have been like in the late-18th century. How did people travel around? What technology did they have to help them find their way? Compare life back then with how it is now i.e. travel back then = walking/horses/sailing ships VS travel now = cars, planes, trains; navigation technology back then = chronometer, compass, sextant and sails VS navigation technology now = satellites, smartphones, sophisticated maps and motor-driven ships etc. Make a point of how incredible an achievement it was to sail a ship thousands of nautical miles with the tools they had.
- Discuss *leaky ships*. Ask the children to imagine what the ships he captained would have been like.
- Show students the book's cover and discuss their response to it.
- Read the blurb and ask students why they think travelling by ship at that time was so dangerous.
- Create a list that the class comes up with of their ideas and any questions that arise. After reading the book, recheck the list.





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Curriculum link: Literacy (continued)

While reading:

- Before reading, give each student a few sticky notes. Ask students to note any words, questions or wonderings they hear or have that they'd like to share or ask. These can be collated and displayed on a noticeboard or poster. Their questions, lists and wonderings are an opportunity to assess current knowledge and will provide direction for discussions, investigations or presentations.

Curriculum link: Critical and Creative Thinking

After reading:

- What were the biggest hurdles Flinders faced on his journeys? What were his key achievements?
- What drove him to explore and discover new lands?
- What do you think of Flinders' decision to leave behind his wife in order to pursue his work?
- Given the hardship he experienced, was Flinders a competent yet unlucky captain or was he ill-equipped to be in charge of a ship?
- What sort of skills were needed to be a successful explorer at sea?
- What technology we have today would have been useful to Flinders on his voyages?
- What items of food, equipment etc were most important for long voyages at sea?
- What was life like at sea? Was it safe, healthy, exciting etc.
- What experiences did Flinders have with encountering First Nations Peoples?
- What purpose might Trim the cat have served on-board each ship?





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Curriculum link: ICT Capability

After reading:

ACTIVITY: Prominent figures

- Divide the class into small groups. Allocate each group one of the following prominent figures:

Joseph Banks
George Bass
Nicolas Baudin

William Bligh
Bungaree
Ann Chappell

James Cook
Charles Decaen
John Hunter

Philip Gidley King
John Thistle
Trim

- Students are to create a mini presentation on their chosen figure. These can take on whatever form the students choose – a poster, media or digital presentation, or booklet.

Projects to include: information about the person's life (including significant dates, achievements and their role in relation to Flinders), and how the world remembers them.

ACTIVITY: Sailing vessels

- Divide the class into small groups. Allocate each group one of the following sailing vessels:

Bounty
Bridgewater
Cato
Cumberland

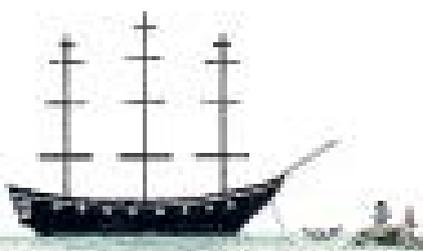
Francis
Hope
Investigator

Lady Nelson
le Géographe
Norfolk

Porpoise
Reliance
Tom Thumb

- Students are to create a mini presentation on their chosen vessel. These can take on whatever form the students choose – a poster, media or digital presentation, or booklet.

Projects to include: key information about the vessel (including type of ship, its size and how many crew it required) and how it was used by Flinders on his adventures.





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ACTIVITY: Natural World

- Investigate how early ocean-going explorers found their way around the world. (Sun, stars, read their environment.)
- Divide the class into five groups. Give groups A, B and C blank maps of Australia and groups D and E blank maps of the world. Making use of an atlas or online mapping site, have each group mark their map with the following locations that correspond to their group:

Group A

Bass Strait
Botany Bay
Broken Bay
Cape Leeuwin
Chappell Isles
Encounter Bay
Furneaux Islands

Group B

Great Australian Bight
Great Barrier Reef
Great Sandy Island
Gulf of Carpentaria
Kangaroo Island
New Holland
Port Jackson

Group C

Spencer's Gulf
Sydney
Terra Australis
Torres Strait
Van Diemen's Land
Western Port
Wreck Reef

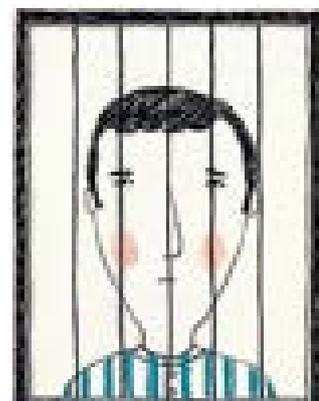
Group D

Canton
Cape of Good Hope
Cape Town
China
England
English Channel
France

Group E

Indian Ocean
Mauritius
New Guinea
Pacific Ocean
Tahiti
Timor

Once each group has finished, all groups come together to compile a complete map.





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ACTIVITY: Creative activities

- Imagine you are a sailor on one of the journey's mentioned in *Matthew Flinders*. Write a narrative about one of the following topics:
 - * life on a sailing ship
 - * your experience as a survivor after the *Porpoise* and *Cato* were shipwrecked
 - * your experience/s upon meeting First Nations Peoples
- Imagine you are one of the First Nations People that Flinders met on his travels. Write a narrative about one of the following topics:
 - * your first impressions of these light-skinned sailors and how they treated you
 - * trying to help them find food and water without being able to speak their language
- Imagine you are Flinders, and that you are writing a letter to your beloved Ann.
- Imagine you are Flinders, and you are preparing for a voyage from England to Port Jackson by completing the following tasks:
 - * make a list of the essential provisions and materials you will need on your journey
 - * come up with a name for your ship
 - * make a list of the people (and their roles) you will need for your journey
 - * you can take five luxury i.e. non-essential items with you – what are they? (Make sure these are period-appropriate – no digital devices!)
- Trim the cat was an important and much-loved member of crew. Write a narrative from the perspective of Flinders or another crew member, and why they thought Trim was so important. What did Trim get up to at sea? What purpose did Trim serve? What were the benefits of having a cat on-board for Flinders and the rest of the crew?
- Write a day-in-the-life narrative from the perspective of Trim.





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Additional resources

- [Discovering Australia: The legend & reality of Matthew Flinders](#) (73 minute lecture)
- [Ocean's Eighteen: life on board of an 18th-century ship](#) (26 minute documentary)
- [Recipe for ship's biscuit](#) (9 minutes)
- [Sailor Rations in the 18th Century](#) (7 minutes)
- [The Voyage of Matthew Flinders](#) (5 minutes)
- The Navigators - Baudin vs Flinders – [Part 1](#) (52 minutes) & [Part 2](#) (55 minutes)
- [Why scurvy shouldn't exist](#) (relatively advanced information)
- [A biographical tribute to the memory of Trim](#) (written by Flinders)

Marketing and promotion

Matthew Flinders: Adventures on leaky ships is a one-off title, though it shares elements with other one-off titles such as *Putting Australia on the Map*, *Little Lon* and *The Massive Book of Maps*. Future one-off titles are planned, such as *Show me the Money*, *Vote for Me* and *Migration*.

