

WA Shipwrecks Museum

Past and Present

Self-Guided Museum Exploration

Adult Helper Instructions



Read all the pages in this trail aloud to students. Follow these icons so you know what to do.



This building was first built to store things, but then it was used for lots of other reasons. When you see this symbol, look for some clues on or in the building.



Every time you see one of these symbols, you need to FIND some clues.



When you see this symbol, use your senses to EXPLORE the clues that you find. You might have to gently touch it, use your eyes, your ears or your imagination.

How to use this trail – hints for Adult helpers:

Use the map to find the objects on each page.

Complete the pages / visit the spaces in **any order**.

Spread out and go to different rooms to other groups.

Be sure to visit the Entrance Gallery displays, **but don't worry if you don't visit all the galleries.**

The main focus is to have fun! It is okay if you can't answer all the questions.

Take photos to remember what you saw.



WA Shipwrecks Museum

Gather students on the lawn outside the Museum and read this page to students before you split them into smaller groups.

When we look around the Museum today, it is very important firstly pay respects to the Aboriginal peoples who have been here for a very long time. Long before people from Europe came here on ships to explore and to live.

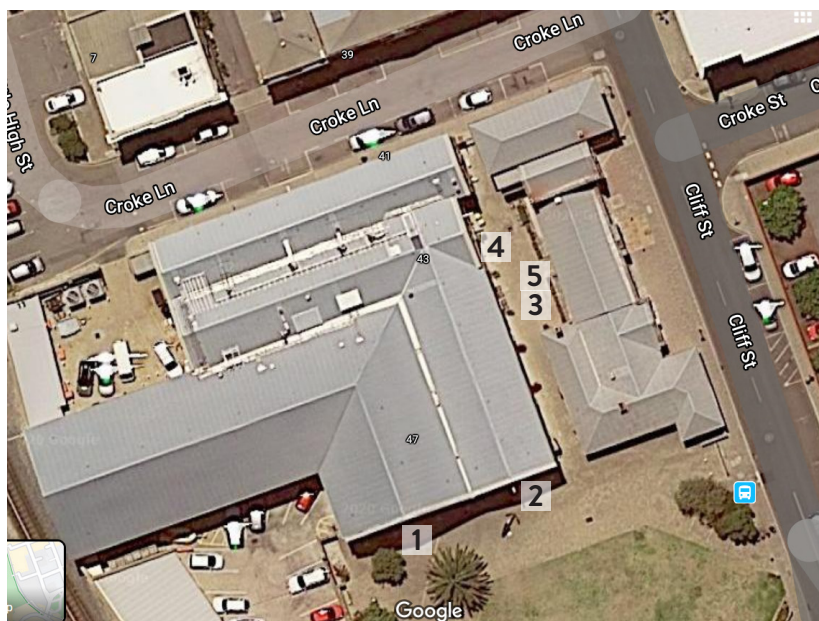
Let's begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, Whadjuk Nyoongar people, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The Whadjuk Nyoongar name for Fremantle is Walyalup (Wal-ya-lup). Can you all say that together?

Today we are going to explore outside and inside this Museum building.

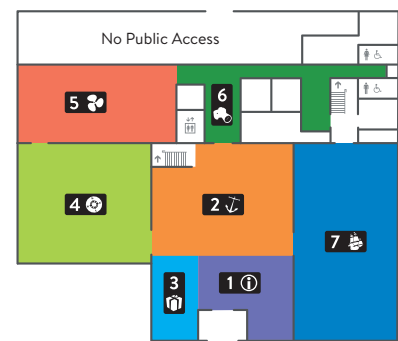
Do you think this building is old or new?

Yes! It is very old. The first parts of it were built in 1852 – nearly 170 years ago.

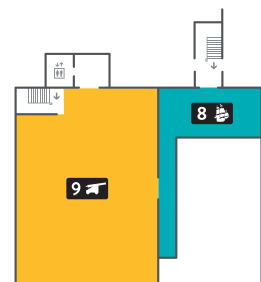
It wasn't always a Museum. We are going to discover this building's past by exploring some clues.



Ground Level



Level 1



Map Key

Ground Level:

1. Information Desk
- 2. Entrance Gallery**
3. Museum Shop
4. Hartog to de Vlamingh Gallery
- 5. Xantho Gallery**
6. Corridor Displays
7. Batavia Gallery

Level 1:

8. Batavia Observation Deck
9. Dutch Wrecks Gallery

Map Key

Ground Level:

1. Window Bars, Limestone Walls, Hook
2. Eglinton Anchor
3. Courtyard
4. Stables
5. Activity Room



Outside – Front Entrance



Start at the Museum's front entrance.



Find and read these plaques on the outside wall.



Run your fingers along the words.

In what year did the Museum open?



Old buildings that have a lot of history can make interesting Museums.

Do you agree?

This building was built by convicts (people who committed a crime in England and were sent to work in Australia).

Convicts wore clothing marked with a broad arrow. The arrow meant "this belongs to the government".

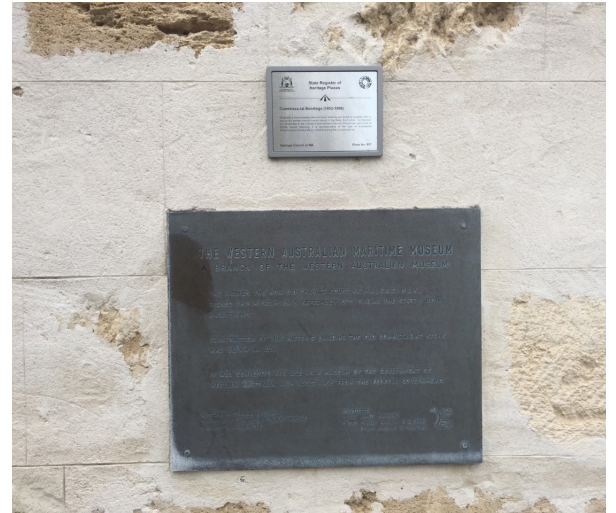


Find an arrow on one of the window bars. Hint: look at *all* the front windows.



Trace the arrow with your finger.

How would it feel to be a convict, working hard as your punishment?





Outside – Front Walls



The building walls are made from limestone. Limestone is formed on the sea floor. There is a lot of it around Fremantle.



Find a limestone brick that reminds you of beach sand.



Rub the brick with your fingers. A convict builder held this brick in the past!

Would it be heavy or light to lift?



The building was first used as a *Commissariat*. It was a storage place for food, clothing and building materials.

These things were brought to Fremantle by sailing ships.

Why do you think this storage place was built close to the sea?



Find a big hook that was used to lift things up to the second floor.

What has been done to the door under the hook?



Touch the yellow door on the ground level.

Do you think it ever opens? What do you think is behind this door?

You will discover the answer later on...





Outside – Anchor and Stables



When this building was brand new, an English ship called the *Eglinton* was bringing supplies to Fremantle.

Find the *Eglinton*'s anchor.



Why is it outside this Museum? What happened to the ship?

(Clue: read the plaque)



Feel the different parts of this anchor.

**Which part is metal? Which part is wood?
What is an anchor used for?**



Head to the Courtyard between the Museum and the Activity Room.
(Look for number 3 on the 'outside' map.)



Find a yellow door. It led to the stables where two big horses were kept. They pulled the delivery wagons for the storage buildings.



Tap on this little archway. It is covered now, but it used to be a cat door. Cats were used to catch the rats in the building.

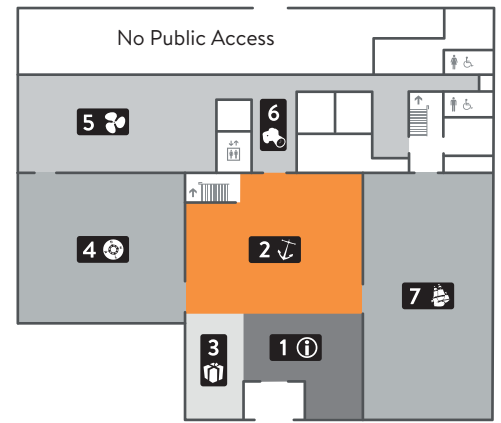
Why do you think people wanted the rats gone?

What does the cat door look like today?





Ground Level



Shipwrecks Museum Entrance Gallery

2



Find the corner display called *A ship with two tales*.
Look inside the wooden box beside this display.



Hold an object from the box and find
a matching object in the display.

Compare the past and present objects.
Talk about how each object is the same,
and how it is different.



Go to the *Eglinton* display across the room.

Find some *Eglinton* objects that look like something in your house.

Use some clues on the sign to work out how old these things are.

These objects are real items from the shipwreck you will learn
about in today's activity.



Hartog to De Vlamingh Gallery 4



Step just inside the entry to the *Hartog do De Vlamingh Gallery*.



Find the wooden blocks on the floor. They are made from Jarrah.



Stroke a wooden block. It is smooth after thousands of feet walking on it over time.

**Do you have wooden floors at home?
What do they look like?**

Head further into this gallery to explore the artefacts.



Find some old maps and tools that were used by sailors to find their way.

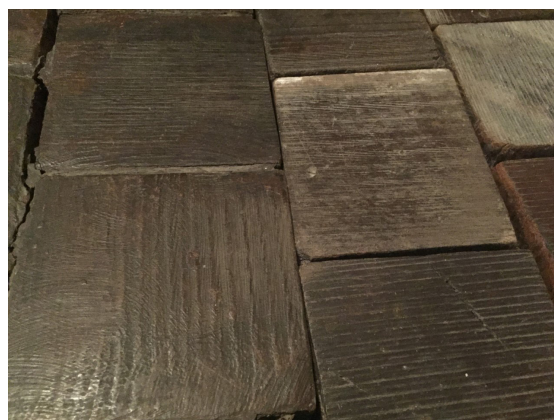
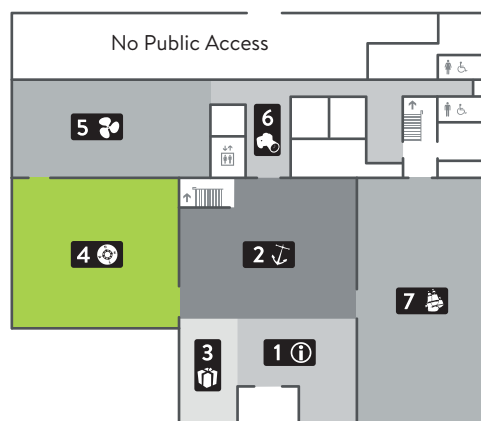


Point to where you think West might be. It's hard without the right tools!

Your adult helper might be able to show you a map on their phone.

What would a sailor from the past think about a mobile phone map?

Ground Level





Xantho Gallery

5

Find the biggest artefact in the *Xantho* Gallery.



It is the engine from a ship called *Xantho*.

The ship sank more than 100 years ago. The engine was discovered in the shipwreck and conserved (cleaned and restored) so it could be displayed in this Museum.



Find the small model to see how it works.

The engine was very advanced technology when it was built.

Do you think an engine on a modern ship would look the same as this one?

Now look closely at the building's walls in this gallery.



Find some windows that have been covered up by bricks.

Old buildings get changed a lot over the years.

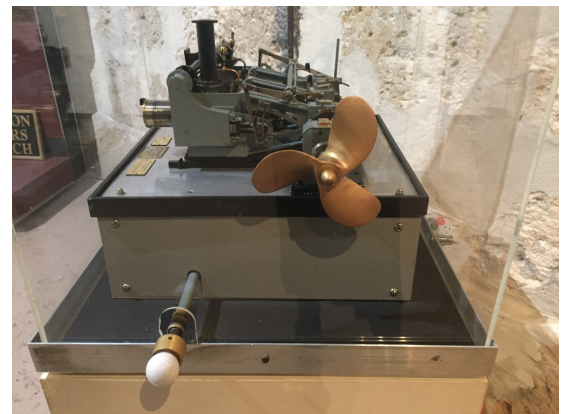
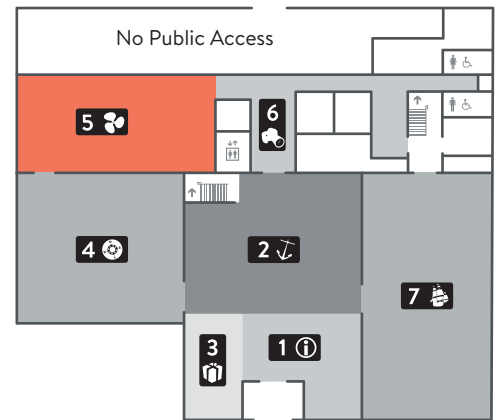
Has your family ever added new parts onto the house that you live in?



Pretend to look through one of the blocked-up windows.

What might you see on the other side?

Ground Level



Dutch Wrecks Gallery

9

This gallery is filled with objects that were found on shipwrecks. These items are all more than 300 years old.



Find some things that you find interesting.

How are they the same as the things we use today.

How are they different?



Find the spice display. Ask an adult to gently press on the glass top. Find the small holes on the side and SNIFF!

Do you have spices at home?

In the past, spices were worth a lot of money.

Ships sailed on long and dangerous journeys to get them from other countries.



The next building clue shows how this building was changed to make it safer.



Find the top of the large anchor. This hole used to be a trapdoor, to the floor below.

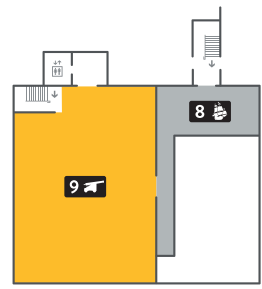


Hold the safety rails and look down. The trapdoor was not safe for curious students, so it was nailed shut.

Later, the trapdoor was removed.

Why are the safety rails here?

Level 1





Batavia Observation Deck

8



Imagine you are on a ship, 400 years ago.
Find the Captain's Cabin and sit inside.
Shhhh! Whisper – the Captain is sleeping...



Look at these pictures. Talk about how the
Captain might have used each object.

Do we use the same things today?



Chamber pot



Quill



Map



Candle holder



Beardman jug



Look for some changes in the building now.



Find a place where you can look down at
the gallery below.

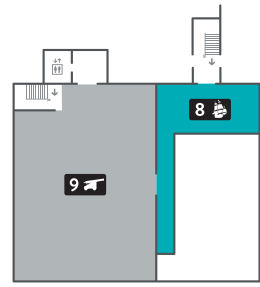


Search for some sunlight coming through
the windows. You won't find any!

Sunlight can damage very old objects, so
we keep windows covered up to protect
our artefacts.

**Do you think the windows were always
covered up like this?**

Level 1





Batavia Gallery

7

The *Batavia* wreck is a huge and famous artefact. The things in this room are all from the *Batavia* ship.



Peer into a cannon (without touching it).

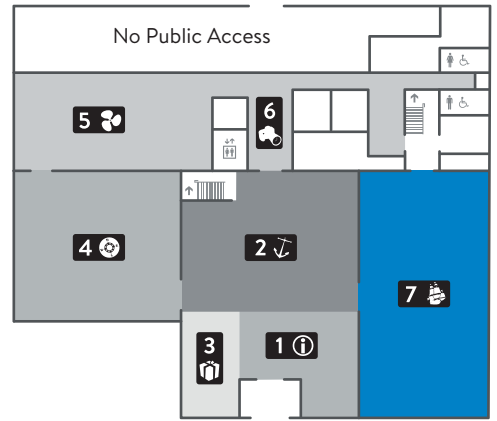
Do you think that ships today have cannons on them? Why or why not?



Stand in front of the 'stone' archway.

Is it part of the building or is it a museum display?

Ground Level



Find the door in the middle of the archway. This is the yellow door you saw outside the Museum at the start.



Gently touch one of the bricks on the floor beneath the archway. (Do not reach over the rope.)

These bricks are from shipwrecks. They are hundreds of years old. Today's bricks look much the same. Some things don't change!

