



Art Gallery  
of Western Australia

# Through the Eyes of the Colonial Artist

## Art of the Swan River Settlement

### Art Gallery Visit

During this guided tour of the Art Gallery, students will develop an understanding of the Swan River Settlement through the visual impressions made by early settlers and visitors to Western Australia.

Voluntary Gallery guides will encourage students to analyse selected artworks and discuss issues such as the impact of settlement on the land and landscape, the interaction between Indigenous people and early settlers, and the way in which people and events combine to create a narrative history of that time.

A look through the State Art Collection will reveal how different artists depict the Western Australian landscape, reflecting changes in attitudes and perception from the colonial to the contemporary.

### Art Gallery Workshop

Students will develop their Art Skills with an Education Officer through observational drawing inspired by works from the State Art Collection. They will then refine their skills in colour mixing and experiment with different ways of depicting space.

### Tranby (Peninsula Farm) Visit

Take a step back in time and put yourself in the shoes of a settler. Students can learn about life during the Swan River Settlement with a visit to this historic Maylands farmhouse, built in 1839. A guided tour takes students through the homestead, exploring artworks, furnishings and surroundings to discover how the early settlers lived, worked, interacted with the Aboriginal people and used the local environment.

### Tranby Workshop

Teachers will lead students to create observational drawings of the landscape, using art materials supplied by the Gallery.



**Frederick Garling**  
*Swan River - View from Fraser's Point, 1827*  
watercolour over pencil  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Purchased 1957



*Yr 2 students from St Simon Peter Catholic Primary School participating in an art workshop*

## After your visit

Using one of the artworks from your visit to the Art Gallery and Tranby, produce one of the following:

**An exhibition** of work in the style of the early settlers.

**A painting** to show how the area has changed since early settlement.

**An illustration** for a piece of writing about the period such as a newspaper article.

**A practical item** that has some significance from the mid 1800s and is decorated with some aspect from your drawing, e.g. an apron, a bookmark or calico bag for carrying books or tools.

## Bookings

The following options are available:

1. **Collaborative Day:** Art Gallery tour and workshop plus Tranby visit: \$7.50 per student (plus GST). Limits apply to group size, whole day excursion from 10.00am till 2.00pm.
2. **Guided tour** at the Art Gallery with a Voluntary Gallery Guide, no charge, limits apply to group size, one hour duration.
3. **Free Guided Tour** at the Art Gallery plus **Art Workshop** with a Gallery Education Officer. \$4.95 per student (GST included), limits apply to group size, two hours duration.

**Bookings are essential and conditions apply**

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## Before your visit

**Research** reasons why a settlement was made on the Swan River in the late 1920s.

**Access** information from sources such as newspapers, political cartoons and contemporary accounts to record different viewpoints of similar events.

**Identify** the basic needs of the early settlers (water, food, shelter).

**Assess** the success or failure and the implications of the Swan River Settlement.

**Research** some of the incidents written about by the early settlers and make sketches to record them.

**Consider** the role of women and children in the early settlement. What impact did they have in the establishment of the new colony?



**Frederick Garling**  
*Red Bank - 30 miles up the Swan, 1827*  
pen, ink and watercolour  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Purchased 1957