



Art Gallery
of Western Australia

Australian Identity

Overview

What does it mean to be an Australian and how do we feel about our country? For centuries, artists have created artworks to depict their experiences of Australia; the land, the people and the issues. Using a range of examples from the historical, Indigenous and contemporary State Art collections, discover what images have helped to shape our identity. Explore the personal, group and cultural experiences that make us who we are today.

Guided Tour

Students will:

- Examine different styles and historical periods of artworks.
- Compare the changes.
- Identify images that symbolise the unique Australia lifestyle and landscape.
- Interpret cross-cultural representations of Australian life experiences.
- Discuss some issues facing Australians in the past and the present.
- Consider different ways that images are used to communicate personal, group and cultural experiences.
- Express their own views of what it means to live in Australia or be an Australian.



Frederick McCubbin
Down on his Luck, 1889
oil on canvas
State Art Collection,
Art Gallery of Western Australia

Before your visit

Research Australian issues such as colonisation, immigration and reconciliation. **Investigate** the various cultural groups living in your area or attending your school. **Explore** the differing landscapes, climates and people of rural Australia. **Discover** the important historical events that have helped shape our nation. **Study** Australian poetry, film and literature of the last 250 years; be sure to include examples of pre-colonial viewpoints.

Bookings

Interactive guided tour with a Volunteer Gallery Guide: Free of charge.

Unique art workshop with an Education Officer. Charges and conditions apply.

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