

MAISIE FAWCETT

Class grouping:

whole class and pairs/small groups

Time:

60–90 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to the context of Maisie Fawcett's work prior to visiting the *Her Place* exhibition. Specifically, students will contemplate their existing knowledge about Australia's environmental history, geography and culture, and the role Maisie Fawcett played via her research.

The activities in this resource works well if you are able to provide pairs, or small groups, with laptops with access to the internet. This resource is inquiry based and provides students with leading questions for discovery and discussion. Answers are provided at the bottom of the document. If doing that is impractical, you may like to print out some information from Wikipedia and *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 17, 2007 (MUP) by Linden Gillbank.

Activities:

- 1. Multiple choice**
- 2. True/false**
- 3. Chronology**

Preparation and Materials:

Print a copy of the questions attached to this lesson. Source laptops or computers with internet access.

Procedure:

Activity 1

Multiple Choice

Ask each group of students to nominate both a Google searcher and note taker. Look up information on Maisie Fawcett and use this information to answer the following questions:

Indicate your answer by circling the letter of the most appropriate response:

- 1.** Stella Grace Maisie Carr was born in 1912 in:
 - a) England
 - b) Sydney
 - c) Melbourne
 - d) New Zealand

- 2.** When Maisie graduated Melbourne High School she decided to
 - a) Work as a junior teacher in her old primary school and studied zoology and geology at night at the Austral Coaching College.
 - b) Accept a free place at university.
 - c) Spend most of her time on salt marshes.
 - d) Get married.

- 3.** After gaining her Masters in Science at the University of Melbourne, Maisie was appointed to research:
 - a) Botany
 - b) Soil erosion
 - c) Salt marshes
 - d) Weather conditions

4. When Masie, a city-bred woman, moved to the remote country township of Omeo to complete her research, what struggles did she overcome?
- a) Lack of housing and unemployment.
 - b) No contact with Melbourne friends and family.
 - c) Very limited shopping choices.
 - d) Conservative attitudes, wartime shortages and challenging terrain.
5. Maisie is best known for undertaking ground-breaking research in:
- a) Australian water catchments.
 - b) The damaging effects of camels on Australian vegetation and soils.
 - c) The damaging effects of cattle on Australian vegetation and soils.
 - d) The impact of fire on shrubbery.

Activity 2

True or false

1. Masie developed her love for plants in her parents' and grandmother's gardens, and on nearby salt-marshes.

True False

2. Maisie was dux of Footscray's Hyde Street State School.

True False

3. Masie gained her Masters of Science at the University of Sydney.

True False

4. Maisie challenged cattlemen's claims that grasses did not regenerate in cattle-eroded grasslands.

True False

5. The Maisie Fawcett Scholarship is available to Victoria University graduates to undertake a graduate coursework degree at the University of Melbourne.

True False

Activity 3

Maisie Fawcett chronology

1. Maisie contributes to the royal commission into forest grazing.
2. Maisie Fawcett passes away.
3. Masie is dux of Footscray's Hyde Street State School.
4. Maisie gains her Masters of Science.
5. Maisie enters the University of Melbourne.
6. Stella Grace Maisie Carr, botanist, is born in Footscray.
7. Maisie hypothesises that the Black Friday bushfires of 1939 would regenerate undergrowth – a fact later proved after her death.

1912 _____

1924 _____

1932 _____

1936 _____

1939 _____

1946 _____

1988 _____

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 17, 2007 (MUP) by Linden Gillbank.

Answers

Multiple Choice: c a b d c

True/False: T T F T T

