

The significance of the
Sisters of Mercy
in shaping the
Swan River Colony







## The Sisters of Mercy Educational Resource for Year 5 Teachers and Students

#### Introduction

By the 1840s a small but distinctly British colonial society was emerging on the banks of the Swan River, and in scattered settlements branching from this administrative centre. Like many others, this colonial society was dominated by men of English and Church of England background. According to one Historian, Tom Stannage, power in the Swan River Colony was firmly in the hands of Church of England leaders: "...there can be no doubt that the leading colonists thought of the church [of England] and the courthouse as two sides of the same coin, and the law and religion were administered by the same people [such as] Wittenoom, Irwin, Mackie and Moore" (p. 36, People of Perth). He noted that this society was not very tolerant of other religions.

The wealthy landowners who came to the free settlement on the Swan River brought servants with them. Many of the servants were of Irish descent. The Irish, some of whom were Roman Catholics, were often treated as second class citizens because of their positions as servants and labourers. On a warm January day in 1846 a group of Irish sisters, from a small Convent in Dublin, established by Catherine McAuley, came into this environment. The strength of faith and character of the original Sisters of Mercy made an almost immediate impact on the small community of Perth. By the 23rd September 1856, when Perth was proclaimed a city, the Sisters had established a convent (1848), the first high school for girls in Australia, four schools in the city as well as a school in Fremantle and one in Guildford. Their number had grown from three professed sisters to thirteen by 1856.

The Western Australian Year 5 History curriculum requires students to understand:

"The contribution or <u>significance</u> of one individual or group in shaping the Swan River Colony, including their motivations and actions."

The Sisters of Mercy were strong and capable women, led by Mother Ursula Frayne, who made a lasting impact on education and welfare in the colony. Their significance is not only a story of missionary enthusiasm but also of women whose motivations and actions made an enormous impact on the society dominated by English men. Many written histories of the colony have focussed on political and economic power, but the Sisters contributed to the shape of social and cultural life of the Swan River colony and influenced political, economic and cultural decisions as well as the lives of many individuals.



Image Source: <a href="http://www.mercy.org.au/history/">http://www.mercy.org.au/history/</a>





# Year 5 HASS History Curriculum links and Learning Sequences The significance of the Sisters of Mercy in shaping the Swan River Colony 1829 to 1900

	Curriculum links								
Key concepts	Sources	Continuity a	nd change	Cause and effec	<u>t</u>	Significance	Perspective	es	Empathy
Key Inquiry Questions	What was the significance of the actions of the Sisters of Mercy in shaping the Swan River Colony?								
Historical Knowledge	The contribution or significance of <b>one</b> individual or group in shaping the Swan River Colony, including their motivations and actions (e.g. groups such as explorers, farmers, pastoralists, the Sisters of Mercy) (ACHASSK110)  The patterns of colonial <u>development</u> and <u>settlement</u> (e.g. geographical <u>features</u> , <u>climate</u> , water resources, transport, discovery of gold and expansion of education) and the daily lives of the different inhabitants (e.g. convicts, free settlers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) ( <u>ACHASSK107</u> )				expansion of				
Historical skills  NOTE: Specific HASS skills are itemised for each resource in the Teaching Programme developed for this course.	Identify current unders consider possible miscon and identify personal vitopic (e.g. KWL chart, concept). Develop and refine a raquestions required to prinquiry.  Locate and collect informand/or data from a ran appropriate primary so secondary sources (e.g. media, library cataloguinterviews, internet).	tandings, onceptions iews on a oncept map) ange of olan an rmation ge of urces and museums,	Identify different priew/perspectives and/or data (e.g. a identify motives)  Use criteria to det relevancy of informations accuracy publication date, requestion)  Interpret informaticollected (e.g. sequention of the collected (e.g. sequention) and effect, make of prior knowledge)  Translate collected	ermine the mation (e.g., reliability, usefulness to the cion and/or data uence events in er, identify cause connections with	and give expla the informatio texts, tables, g (e.g. identify p relationships) Use decision-n (e.g. share opi personal persp	naking processes nions and pectives, consider is of view, identify possible in for action, tages and	Present findings, carguments, appropriate purpose, in a range forms (e.g. writtentabular, graphic, manufect-specific teconcepts  Develop a variety of narratives, descrippersuasive texts, becollected from sour Reflect on learning understandings and different ways (e.g. questions to be incourse of action or	onclusions priate to a e of common, oral, visuanaps) and rminology of texts, in tions, biogrased on ince mater g, identify and act on figures suggest evestigated	s and/or audience and nunication ual, digital, using and and arcluding graphies and anformation rials are windings in additional l, propose a





	Record selected information and/or data using a variety of methods (e.g. use graphic organisers, paraphrase, summarise)	and/or data to a variety of different formats (e.g. create a timeline, draw maps, convert a table of statistics into a graph)		significant to them)
	Use <u>ethical protocols</u> when gathering information and/or data			
	(e.g. acknowledge the work of			
	others, reference work			
	appropriately, obtain permission to use photographs and interviews)			
Achievement standard	Students identify the cause and effect	_		ave remained the same. They describe the development in bringing about change in
Teaching and learning sequences	complete this course over part of a te chronological order from the earliest y motivations and actions of significant concepts and skills in the School Curri to expand Geographic and English skil Perth. The excursion to this Heritage programme or as a conclusion to the	rm, a full term or longer specific weeks years of the Swan River Colony until the women, the Sisters of Mercy, in the coculum and Standards Authority Westels. The resource provides the opporture Perth property can be undertaken as eresearch task. However, if the excury to be conducted by students. There wer Colony 1829 - 1846 If the Sisters of Mercy 1846 - 1857 If Ursula Frayne 1846 - 1857 Ircy Community 1846 - 1900	s are not included in the programme end of the nineteenth century. Eastlony. The Learning sequences prover Australian History curriculum annity to conduct an excursion to the at any stage of the programme - rsion is not possible the Teacher	To provide the teacher with flexibility to the. However, the learning sequences are in each of the learning sequences focus on the vide opportunities to cover the knowledge, and HASS skills. There are also opportunities Mercy Heritage Centre in Victoria Square, as an introduction, mid-way through the resources and references supplied in the he study of the Sisters of Mercy to current



### Year 5 History, HASS Learning Sequences: The Significance of the Sisters of Mercy in shaping the Swan River Colony 1829 to 1900

Each Learning sequence contains both teacher and student resources and suggested activities. See Teacher Resource (TR1) or Student Resource (SR1). Some specific references are included in this document; however, a detailed reading list is included following the introduction to this resource. Both the English curriculum and Economics concepts can be readily incorporated into the learning activities.

#### The significance of the Sisters of Mercy in shaping the Swan River Colony 1829 to 1900

Sequence	Syllabus knowledge understandings and skills	Suggested teaching content and learning activities	Resources and assessment ideas
The Swan River Colony 1829 -1846	Historical Knowledge The patterns of development and settlement in the Swan River Colony HASS Skills - Interpret information and/or data collected (e.g. sequence events in chronological order, identify cause and effect, make connections with prior knowledge)  Translate collected information and/or data to a variety of different formats (e.g. create a timeline, draw maps, convert a table of statistics into a graph). Identify different points of view/perspectives in information Draw and justify conclusions, and give explanations, based on the information and/or data in texts, tables, graphs and maps (e.g. identify patterns, infer relationships) Main Historical concepts Evidence, cause and effect, perspective.	An introductory motivational activity to spark student curiosity: the analysis of a State Records Office map of Perth in 1845.  Build an understanding of the British colony on the Swan River through a study of historical context using statistics, primary and secondary sources and maps.  The settlement of the Swan River Colony by 1860. Mapping activity on the expansion of the settlement  Encourage students to question why the Sisters of Mercy chose to set up a new Foundation in the Swan River Colony.	The Swan River Colony TR1: Perth in 1845 (Interpret information and make connections with prior knowledge)  Swan River Colony TR2: Features of Colonial Society 1829 to 1850 (Infer relationships based on information)  The Swan River Colony: SR1 Mapping exercise on the Expansion of settlement to 1860 (Translate collected information to a different format) Formative assessment  Swan River Colony: SR2 Why did the Sisters of Mercy come to the Swan River Colony? (Data analysis and justify conclusions) Formative assessment  Swan River Colony: SR3 The Shipping Trunk (Give explanations based on information, perspectives of the Sisters of Mercy)





Sequence	Syllabus knowledge understandings and skills	Suggested teaching content and learning activities	Resources and assessment ideas
The Arrival of the Sisters of Mercy 1846 - 1857	Historical Knowledge The significance of a group in shaping the Swan River Colony, including their motivations and actions HASS Skills Locate and collect information and/or data from a range of appropriate primary sources and secondary sources (e.g. museums, media, library catalogues, interviews, internet) Record selected information and/or data using a variety of methods (e.g. use graphic organisers, paraphrase, summarise) Identify different points of view/perspectives in information and/or data (e.g. analyse language, identify motives)  Draw and justify conclusions, and give explanations, based on the information and/or data in texts, tables, graphs and maps (e.g. identify patterns, infer relationships) Main historical concepts Evidence, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy. Economics Demand and supply English Students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts including narratives, procedures, performances, reports, reviews, explanations and discussions.	Tuning in to the inquiry: motivating the students and building context. (See Kath Murdoch Phases of an Inquiry in "Downloads" <a href="http://www.kathmurdoch.com.au/">http://www.kathmurdoch.com.au/</a> )  Explore the motivations of the Sisters of Mercy by using the Virtual Museum to understand their beliefs.  Student discovery of the Sisters' experiences through primary and secondary sources: "Through their eyes". Students to create an imaginative narrative on the experiences of one Sister. Further development of the context of the Swan River Colony during the 1840s.  Problems facing the Sisters 1846-1851. Students create an explosion chart or series of sketches of the problems facing the Sisters in their first few years in Perth. Note the determination, diplomacy and strength of character of these women in dealing with Bishop Brady, the colonial elite and financing their projects.  Demand and supply: Questions relating how the Sisters met the demand for education and welfare support for the poorest members of the colonial society.	The Arrival TR1: The beliefs of the Sisters of Mercy and the meaning of the Mercy Cross (Teacher information)  The Arrival TR2: Problems facing the Sisters of Mercy 1846 to 1851 (Record information using graphic organiser. Draw and justify conclusion based on evidence)  The Arrival SR1: What the Sisters of Mercy believe http://institute.mercy.org.au/aboutus/archives-and-heritage/virtual-museum/ (Locate and collect information. Record information using a variety of methods)  The Arrival SR2: Through their eyes: What did the sisters see on their arrival in Perth? (Empathy. Draw and justify conclusions based on evidence. Imaginative narrative) Diary enformative assessment  Review of terminology (formative assessment)





Sequence	Syllabus knowledge understandings and skills	Suggested teaching content and learning activities	Resources and assessment ideas
Leadership of Ursula Frayne 1846 - 1857			Leadership SR1: The expansion of schooling Complete questions and choose three images of interest. http://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/archives-and-heritage/virtual-museum/ Students use the thinking tool, See Think Wonder to develor questions on their chosen artefacts in the online museum. http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking html file/03 ThinkingRoutines/03c Core routines/SeeThinkWonde/SeeThinkWonder Routine.html (Use criteria to determine the relevancy of information)  Leadership SR2: A letter to the Queen for Aboriginal childre (Continuity and change, Identify different points of view)  Leadership TR1: Timeline: Ursula Frayne and the Sisters of Mercy in WA 1846 to 1857 (sequence events, data representation) Assessment Leadership TR2: The Growth of Education in the Colony
	(e.g. consider accuracy, reliability, publication date, usefulness to the question)  Translate collected information and/or data to a variety of different formats (e.g. create a timeline)  Identify different points of view/perspectives in information and/or data (e.g. analyse language, identify motives)  Draw and justify conclusions, and give explanations, based on the information and/or data in texts, tables, graphs and maps (e.g. identify patterns, infer relationships)  Key Historical Concepts Evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives.	Timeline of Ursula's life in the Swan River colony- Key Events in the life of Ursula Frayne's life in the colony 1846 to 1857 The belief that the Sisters held in the importance of education. Discuss their determination and achievements.  Who's Who in the Sisters' world? In groups students construct a biography of an important person who influenced the mission of the Sisters of Mercy up to 1860. e.g. Salvado, Brady, Serra or one of the early Governors,  Vocabulary activity. Can use a word match game and add to the vocabulary on a Word Wall or in student glossary lists.	Leadership TR2: The Growth of Education in the Colony (Record information using a graphic organiser, a Y Chart)  Leadership TR3: Cause and Effect - The impact of the Sisters of Mercy on Education in the Colony (Translate information to a different form)  Leadership TR4: Who's Who in the colony (Locate, collect and record selected information)  Leadership SR3: Vocabulary review - word match





Sequence	Syllabus knowledge understandings and skills	Suggested teaching content and learning activities	Resources and assessment ideas
Sisters of Mercy Community 1846 -1900	Historical Knowledge The contribution or significance of one individual or group in shaping the Swan River Colony, including their motivations and actions  Hass Skills Identify current understandings, consider possible misconceptions and identify personal views on a topic (e.g. KWL chart, concept map)  Develop and refine a range of questions required to plan an inquiry  Locate and collect information and/or data from a range of appropriate primary sources and secondary sources (e.g. museums, media, library catalogues, interviews, internet)  Record selected information and/or data using a variety of methods (e.g. use graphic organisers, paraphrase, summarise)  Use ethical protocols when gathering information and/or data (e.g. acknowledge the work of others)  Interpret information and/or data collected (e.g. sequence events in chronological order, identify cause and effect, make connections with prior knowledge)  Translate collected information and/or data to a variety of different formats  Identify different points of view/perspectives in information and/or data (e.g. analyse language, identify motives.  Key Historical concepts  Evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, significance	Develop focus questions to support learning during the visit to the Mercy Heritage Centre for the historical inquiry.  In what ways did the Sisters of Mercy shape the Swan River colony during the nineteenth century? How are their actions still evident in WA today?  Brainstorm - students develop a range of ideas on these broad questions. Students may choose to focus on specific aspects of the Sisters' mission such as Aboriginal education and welfare, schools, Mercedes College, assistance to the poor, daily life of the Sisters or other themes.  Read and analyse information on the relationship between the Sisters of Mercy and Bishop Martin Griver and Governor Weld  Extension activity:  Circle of Viewpoints A routine for exploring diverse perspectives - discuss the differing perspectives on government grants to education in the colony up to and including the 1871 Education Act.	The Mercy Community SR2: The new convent 1871 The Mercy Community TR2: Bishop Griver and Governor Weld





Sequence	Syllabus knowledge understandings	Suggested teaching content and learning	Resources and assessment ideas	
	and skills	activities		
The Mercy Heritage Centre Perth 1846 -1900	Historical Knowledge The contribution or significance of one individual or group in shaping the Swan River Colony, including their motivations and actions The daily lives of the Sisters of Mercy HASS Skills Draw and justify conclusions, and give explanations, based on the information and/or data in texts, tables, graphs and maps (e.g. identify patterns, infer relationships) Locate and collect information and/or data from a range of appropriate primary sources and secondary sources (e.g. museums, media, library catalogues, interviews, internet) Record selected information and/or data using a variety of methods (e.g. use graphic organisers, paraphrase, summarise) Identify different points of view/perspectives in information and/or data (e.g. analyse language, identify motives) Use ethical protocols when gathering information and/or data (e.g. acknowledge the work of others, reference work appropriately, obtain permission to use photographs and interviews) Develop a variety of texts, including narratives, descriptions, biographies and persuasive texts, based on information collected from source materials Reflect on learning, identify new understandings and act on findings in different ways (e.g. suggest additional questions to be investigated, propose a course of action on an issue that is significant to them). Key Historical concepts Evidence, significance, continuity and change, perspectives and empathy English Language features include complex sentences, unfamiliar technical vocabulary, figurative language, and information presented in various types of graphics.	If an excursion cannot be arranged the following resources will provide useful material for the student inquiry: the Virtual Museum, the film "Ursula Frayne: Woman of Mercy", resource sheets and the list of references following the introduction to this Resource.  Ideas to support the excursion to the Mercy Heritage Centre  1. Discuss the questions students have developed for their inquiry topics.  2. Encourage students to take notes from the Heritage Centre guide, read the banners and displays, study items in each of the main rooms (sculptures, what the Sisters wore, musical instruments, school subjects, ways of teaching and learning, helping the poor, why they were called "the Walking Nuns").  3. Encourage students to ask questions directly related to their inquiry topic. e.g. What did the Sisters provide to the poor? Where were the school rooms? Why was there only one main entry to the Convent? Why were cups of tea important?  4. Remind the students to take a photo or sketch an item from the Mercy Centre to use in a story about the actions of the Sisters of Mercy. For example: The Mercy Cross, The Statue of Ursula, The Poor Door, Musical instruments, an item on display in the Community Room, a painting and so on.  5. Students should complete the question sheet provided by the Mercy Heritage Centre.  Review of excursion/ Investigating Further Refine questions and discuss discoveries at the Mercy Heritage Centre (or from further research) Review and discuss the actions undertaken by the Sisters of Mercy to support the following groups: the education of European and Aboriginal children, prisoners, poor families.  Students read and discuss with a partner their imaginative response to their chosen artefacts from the Mercy Heritage Centre.  Students to continue their inquiry: discuss with students how they would like to communicate and share their inquiry with other members of the school or local community:	The Mercy Heritage Centre SR1: Stepping into the past. Find answers to at least 6 focus questions for research assignment  Mercy Heritage Centre SR2: What story does it tell? A creative response to an item from the Heritage Centre Discuss imaginative response. Students read, present their item and response. Submit creative response (perspective, figurative language) formative assessment  The Mercy Heritage Centre TR1: Reflections. The importance of heritage (Significance, draw and justify conclusions, Reflect on learning)  The Mercy Heritage Centre SR3: Sharing your research Review excursion notes. Check stages of the inquiry. Review answers to focus questions from the tour of the Mercy Heritage Centre (Develop texts based on information collected, Use ethical protocols)	





Learning Sequence 6						
Sequence	Syllabus knowledge understandings	Suggested teaching content and learning	Resources and assessment ideas			
	and skills	activities				
	<u>Historical Knowledge</u>	Discuss evidence from the excursion (and Virtual	Across the colonyTR1 Sisters of Mercy Schools in			
	The contribution or significance of one	Museum/ student research) of other places in WA	WA 1860 to 1900			
Across the	individual or group in shaping the Swan	where the Sisters established schools	Across the colony SR1 Population growth 1859			
Colony	River Colony, including their motivations and		<u>to 1900</u>			
1860 -1900	actions	Data interpretation-continuity and change in Western				
1000 1000		Australia from the 1860s to 1900	Across the colony SR2 Significant changes from			
	The patterns of colonial <u>development</u> and		<u>1860 to 1900</u> .			
	settlement (e.g. geographical features,	Mapping activity - Sisters of Mercy Foundations in WA				
	<u>climate</u> , water resources, transport,	(and date)	Communicate and share the completed inquiry			
	discovery of gold)		Summative assessment			
		A summary Mercy and Benedictine heritage hospitals				
	HASS Skills	or schools in Western Australia.	Talking, Living Sharing Mercy pamphlet			
	Interpret information and/or data collected		hater the consequence of the city of the c			
	(e.g. sequence events in chronological order,	FURTHER STUDIES COULD INCLUDE	http://www.mercyworld.org/heritage/index.cf			
	identify <u>cause and effect</u> , make connections	1. ONGOING LIFE OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY in the	m?loadref=143 (Foundations)			
	with prior knowledge)	Twentieth and Twenty first centuries				
	Record selected information and/or data	2. INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS Mercy Mission in				
	using a variety of methods (e.g. use graphic	Australia and PNG today. Key work around the world (see				
	organisers, paraphrase, summarise)	link or ask a guest speaker from Mercy Australia to come				
	organisers, paraprirase, sammarise,	and share her experiences with the class)				
	Key Historical concepts					
	Evidence, continuity and change,					
	significance					



#### **Reference List**

#### **Books:**

Tunica, M, 1995, For the love of poetry, Primary English Teaching Association, Newtown, NSW.

Byrne, G. 1981, *Valiant Women, Letters from the Foundation Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia,* 1845-49. The Polding Press, Melbourne.

Frayne, U, Sketches of Conventual Life in the Bush; Anecdotes of Native Australians, Recollections of Rev. Mother Ursula Frayne. - From copy of manuscript from Ascot Vale, Victoria – ISMAPNG Archives and Heritage, Perth.

Killerby, C. K, 1996, *Ursula Frayne, A Biography,* University of Notre Dame, Fremantle Arts Centre Press.

McLay, A, 1992, Women Out of Their Sphere; A History of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia, Vanguard Press, Northbridge.

O'Brien, O. 2014, Martin Griver Unearthed, The Life of a Spanish Missionary Priest who became a Bishop in Colonial Western Australia 1814 to 1886, St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.

Stannage, C.T, 1979, People of Perth; A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City, Perth City Council.

Stormon, E.J, 1978, *The Salvado Memoirs; Historical Memoirs of Australia and particularly the Benedictine Mission of New Norcia,* Dom Rosendo Salvado O.S.B, UWA Press

Walsh, A, 1996, *Ursula Frayne; A Woman of Mercy, Themes and Resources*. John Garratt Publishing, Melbourne. [Note: This book supports the documentary *Ursula Frayne*. *A Woman of Mercy*]

#### **Online Resources:**

Virtual Museum: Archives and Heritage; Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea. Sections include: Introduction, Religion, Everyday life, Education and Health. <a href="http://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/archives-and-heritage/virtual-museum/">http://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/archives-and-heritage/virtual-museum/</a>

*Ursula Frayne: A Woman of Mercy.* Documentary (1996), Running Time: 45:36 found in the following website:

http://www.mercyworld.org/heritage/tmplt-foundressstory.cfm?loadref=213

Kimberley, W.B. History of West Australia

Online version found at https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/History\_of\_West\_Australia/Chapter\_14

A short and useful biography of Ursula Frayne rsm

http://www.ursulafrayne.wa.edu.au/about-us/tradition/mother-ursula-frayne

Sketches showing Mercy activities and brief history.

http://www.mercy.org.au/history/

Mercy Sisters look back at Ursula Frayne rsm



http://www.therecord.com.au/news/local/mercy-sisters-set-for-a-big-anniversary-year-inspired-by-ursula-frayne/

Historic images of the lakes and changing land use in Perth <a href="http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/wetlands/city-development">http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/wetlands/city-development</a>

A summary of the growth of education under the Sisters of Mercy in Perth <a href="http://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au/index.php/Our-College/history.html">http://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au/index.php/Our-College/history.html</a>

The importance of missions in the early years of the colonies <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2010/10/12/3036004.htm">http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2010/10/12/3036004.htm</a>

A short overview of Catholic religious orders in Australia during the colonial era <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2010/10/12/3036004.htm">http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2010/10/12/3036004.htm</a>

The Record, The second bishop of Perth, Martin Griver, <a href="http://www.therecord.com.au/news/in-depth/church-finds-its-feet-through-the-sanctity-of-griver/">http://www.therecord.com.au/news/in-depth/church-finds-its-feet-through-the-sanctity-of-griver/</a>

MercyCare History
<a href="https://www.mercycare.com.au/about/history/">https://www.mercycare.com.au/about/history/</a>

Sisters of Mercy Foundation to Perth, 1846 http://www.mercy.org.au/history/sec2.html