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# TEACHER BACKPACK

**COLONIAL  
HISTORY**



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Welcome to the Tasmanian  
Museum and Art Gallery  
**Colonial History Teacher  
Backpack.**

We hope you and your students  
enjoy the discoveries you make  
using the objects provided.

The objects in the backpack relate  
to themes and items on display in  
the **Our changing land: Creating  
Tasmania** exhibition located on  
the first floor of the Bond Store.

Each object has a card with  
some information and suggested  
discussion topics.

You can separate the cards if you  
wish.

The objects are to be carefully  
handled and passed around.

Please replace everything as you  
found it.

*Thanks,  
Centre for Learning  
and Discovery*

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## James Cridland letters

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In 2010, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery acquired nine letters written by James Cridland, sent to his family in Great Britain between 1820 and 1844. These are copies of two of his letters.

One is the letter James wrote to his father once he arrived on the hulk *Leviathan* in Portsmouth Harbour on 22 November 1820, awaiting transportation. The other letter, dated 29 January 1838, he wrote to his father many years later once he had moved to Launceston.

James Cridland was born on 19 January 1800 and was the son of a London shoemaker. He was found guilty of forging £1 notes and sentenced to 14 years transportation at The Old Bailey (which was, and is, a London courthouse) in 1820.

Once transported he never returned to Great Britain or saw his family again. He became a journeyman shoemaker in Launceston and never married or had children.

There are typed versions of the letters for easier reading.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- How do you feel when you read the letter sent from the hulk *Leviathan*?
- What do you think was going through James' mind when he wrote this first letter?
- How do you think James felt when he arrived in Hobart Town?
- Should people be punished when society's rules (laws) are broken? How should they be punished?
- How and why do laws change?
- Is it important for museums to keep letters and documents such as these?

## Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Coin

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This £5 coin was recently minted in commemoration of the 60 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Information about the coin and Queen Elizabeth II is included in the accompanying booklet.

Queen Victoria is the only other British monarch to celebrate a Diamond jubilee. Some items from that jubilee in 1897 are on display.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- Compare and contrast the imagery depicting Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II.
- Why are medals and coins one of the traditional ways to commemorate events?
- How have attitudes towards the British monarchy changed in Australia since Queen Victoria's reign?

## Wool carders and fleece

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Hand-carding is a traditional method of preparing fleece.

Carding separates and straightens the fleece, ready for spinning into yarn.

Look at these photos and try it. The wire teeth can scratch so use the cotton gloves.

To start, spread a little wool fleece across one carder. Can you smell the lanolin (wool wax) in the fleece?



Take the other carder and gently (in gentle font) brush the top carder across the fleece on the bottom carder in the opposite direction, a few times.



You will see the fleece starting to separate, it is now spread across both carders.



Taking the wool off the carders can be a bit tricky.



If you can, gently push the carders towards each other, and you will see the wool start to roll off.

Well done! You have learnt how to card. Now the carded wool is ready for spinning into yarn for knitting or weaving.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- Compare and contrast with the carders on display.
- Where does wool come from?
- How long do you think it would take to card enough fleece to make yarn for a jumper?
- What is wool used for? What are other fabrics made from?
- How significant was the wool trade in the 19th century? How has it changed?

## Gunter's chain

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*Please note: This object can be found in a locked cupboard on the ground floor of the Bond Store. Please ask a Visitor Services Officer to assist in getting it for you.*

This survey chain is named after its English inventor, Edmund Gunter, in 1620.

These chains were used to measure land distance in several countries including Australia until the mid-20th century.

The full length of the chain is 66 feet, the exact length of a cricket pitch.

The chain is divided into 100 links which are marked off into groups of 10. This cleverly combined the two different measurement systems: imperial and decimal.

Imagine measuring long distances using one of these!

1 link	7.92 inches
25 links	1 rod/pole/perch 16 ½ feet
100 links	1 chain or 66 feet
10 chains	1 furlong or 220 yards
80 chains	1 mile or 5280 feet
10 square chains	1 acre

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- How is distance and land measured today?
- How do you think a Gunter's chain is made?
- Where does 'measurement' come from?

## Hobart Town 1828

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George William Evans, aquatint.  
(*Reproduction of artwork*)

This picture gives us an idea of how Hobart looked in 1828 and clearly shows the Bond Store and Commissariat building in the background.

The Hobart Rivulet used to flow past the side of the Bond Store. Boats could off-load here, so stores could be taken into the Bond Store.

Valuable foodstuffs and supplies were kept here for the new colony by the government. By the 1820s the colony's needs had outgrown the Commissariat Store, and the Bond Store (the building you are probably in now) was completed in 1824 to provide more space. This building could originally be seen from the waterfront, but is now concealed by the Custom House.

The TMAG precinct is one of Australia's most historically significant colonial sites. The Commissariat Store (on the other side of the courtyard), built between 1808 and 1810, is one of Australia's oldest public buildings.

In the foreground are convicts taking a break from their work.

On the other side of the picture you will find the names of some of the buildings.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- Can you recognise any of the buildings in the picture?
- What do you think the people are doing?
- What are the differences between an historic photograph and a painting?
- Look at the construction of the Bond Store. What do you notice?

## Andrew Mather token

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This token was minted between 1856 and 1860 in Birmingham, Great Britain.

During this time there was a shortage of currency in Australia and many businesses made tokens in order to trade. The tokens resembled the official currency – in this case, one penny.

It seems that tokens could be used in different shops.

Andrew Mather Family Draper & Co was situated at 91 Liverpool Street.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- What other alternative currencies can you think of?
- Describe the design on the token. What does it represent?
- What is the difference between a coin and a token?
- What do you think a draper's shop sold?

## Maps

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Both maps show us our world in ways which may be unfamiliar. One map is from 2012 and the other from 1752.

The earlier map (this is a copy) was drawn by a leading French cartographer, Robert de Vaugondy. It is thought that the man depicted with wings could be Father Time.

This map and several others were bequeathed to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery by Dr. Lamprell in 1998.

Use the map to trace the ocean journeys made by voyagers from Great Britain to Australia.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- Compare and contrast the two maps. What do you notice?
- For what reasons do people travel to Australia via ship today?
- What do you notice about Australia?
- Why are some old maps inaccurate?

## Pack of Tasmanian playing cards

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This pack of cards is one of many Tasmanian souvenirs currently found in shops.

This exhibition displays Tasmanian souvenirs from different eras.

Souvenir is a French word meaning 'to remember'.

*Suggested discussion topics:*

- How have Tasmanian souvenirs changed over time?
- Which images would you choose for a Tasmanian souvenir?
- What will a souvenir from Tasmania look like 100 years from now?