

Voyage to Australia

By Dario Costa



Teachers' Guide

For 4ème, 3ème, Lycée and Université

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Statement of Intent:

With ‘Voyage to Australia’ I perform a solo with scenes from early Australian history, immigration and exploration.

**I play all of the characters in the scenes
with no set and minimum props.**

I intend to initiate a young audience into aspects of Australian culture.

'Voyage to Australia'

Content Description:

1. The Starter: A Short Poem about Australia. Here, I perform a 'facts and figures' humoristic poem, with 8 short lines from a poem 'I love a sunburnt country' by Dorothea Mackellar



2. The English Explorers: Captain James Cook

Lands in Sydney Cove in 1770 and encounters the aborigines. Joseph Banks, his naturalist, studies the plants and animals.



3. Alexander Pearce, 'The Van Diemen's Land Convict':

Alexander was transported to Hobart Town for 7 years for stealing 6 pairs of shoes. He escapes with 6 other convicts only to find themselves in some of the worst bush in Australia and an encounter with a strange animal...



4. Giuseppe, 'The Italian Immigrant': Giuseppe

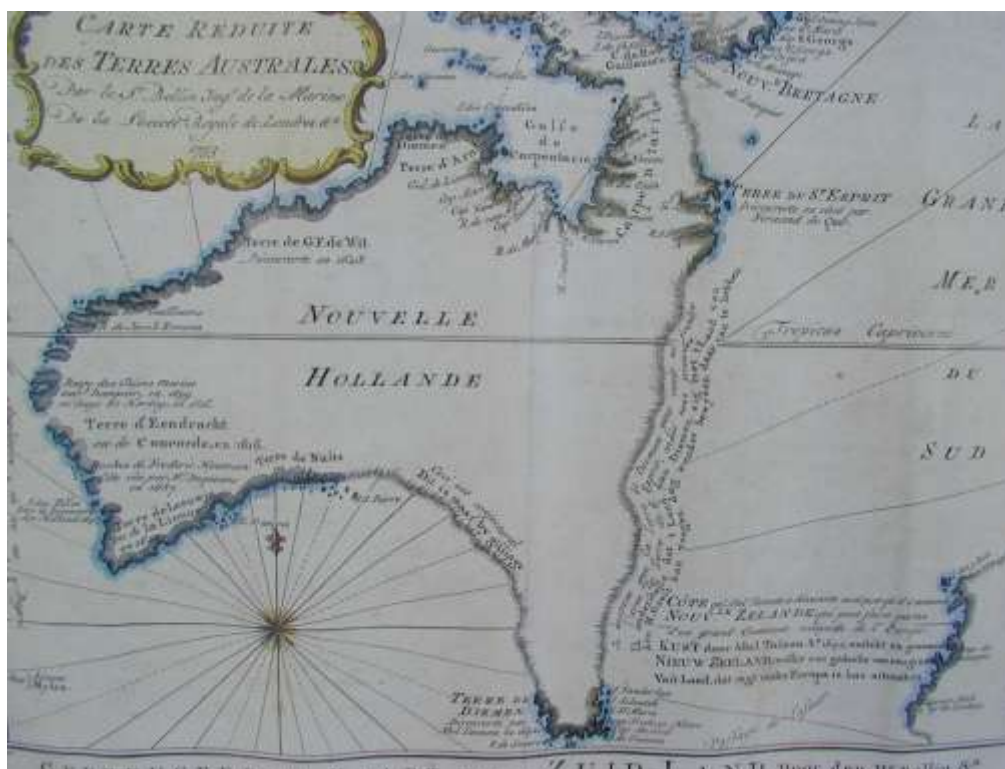
arrives in Melbourne by boat in the 1950s.

The voyage last 3 weeks... What challenges does he meet in coming to Australia?

5. Mad Dan recounts 'The Burke and Wills Expedition':



Mad Dan drives a road train, eats damper and drinks billy tea and sleeps by the side of the road. He meets a writer, Bruce, who wants to know more about the Songlines and Aboriginal dreaming; on the way to Darwin Mad Dan has an adventure where he dreams of the Burke and Wills expedition of 1860.



Note d'Intention:

**Avec 'Voyage en Australie' je joue en solo des scènes de l'histoire,
l'immigration et l'exploration australienne.**

**Je joue tous les personnages dans les scènes avec un minimum de
décor et accessoires.**

**J'ai l'intention d'initier un jeune public dans les aspects de la culture
australienne.**

'Voyage en Australie'

Description du contenu:

1. L'Entrée: un court poème sur l'Australie. Ici, je joue un poème humoristique plein de faits divers et des chiffres avec 8 lignes d'un poème 'I love a sunburnt country'



2. Les Explorateurs Anglais: Le capitaine James Cook débarque à Sydney en 1770 et rencontre les aborigènes. Joseph Banks, le naturaliste sur l'expédition étudie les plantes et les animaux.



3. Alexander Pearce : Le Bagnard de 'Van Diemen's Land' Alexandre est envoyé à Hobart Town pour 7 ans pour avoir volé 6 paires de chaussures. Il s'échappe avec 6 autres et sont confrontés avec la 'brousse sauvage' et ils rencontrent un animal très étrange...



4. Giuseppe, l'immigré italien Giuseppe débarque à Melbourne par bateau dans les années 1950. Le voyage dure 3 semaines. Quels défis va-t-il rencontrer en Australie ?

5. Mad Dan raconte 'La Burke et Wills Expédition'



Mad Dan conduit un train routier, mange du 'damper' et boit du 'thé billy' et dort à côté de la route. Il rencontre un écrivain, Bruce, qui veut savoir plus sur les chants de piste, the 'Dreaming' ; Mad Dan aussi fait une aventure en rêvant de l'expédition de Burke et Wills de 1860.

The Starter – L'Entrée

G'day!

Downunder in the land of Oz

We see things differently because

We're way way down south

And if you watch my mouth

You'll see the words come out at a glance

What is the size of France?

A big land

A land which is grand

But Australia is much bigger

How much bigger do you figure?

Why 14 times as big as France

Which is entirely due to chance

"I love a sunburnt country

A land of sweeping plains

Of ragged mountain ranges

Of droughts and flooding plains

I love her far horizons

I love her jewel-sea

Her beauty and her terror-

The wide brown land for me."

If, to Australia, you go there

That's 24 hours by air!

Once there- the Animals- box jellyfish, crocodiles, sharks, blue-ringed octopus,

The Funnel-Web spider, the Redback spider,

**In the desert where it bakes you'll find many Snakes- Taipan, Brown, Tiger and
the Death Adder.**

2. The English Explorers:



In this scene the characters are James Cook (an English explorer) and Joseph Banks (an English naturalist).

Scene Extract:

James: “My name is Cook, James Cook. I am exploring the East coast of Australia for Science. Oh, how that sun can burn!”

Joseph: “I have come to study the plants and the animals. Oh my goodness! The first animal I see has a beak like a duck...feet like a duck...tail like a beaver...and covered in fur....platypus. En français ornithorynque.”

Vocabulary:

Aborigine- un habitant d’origine du pays comparé à un envahisseur ou colonisateur. Cet expression s’applique en général en Australie aux ‘aborigènes’ même si différents noms des peuples se distingues comme les Murrys en Queensland, Nyoongars en Australie Occidentale, les Kooris en Victoria et les Iora à Sydney.

Les animaux suivants sont spécifiques à l’Australie :

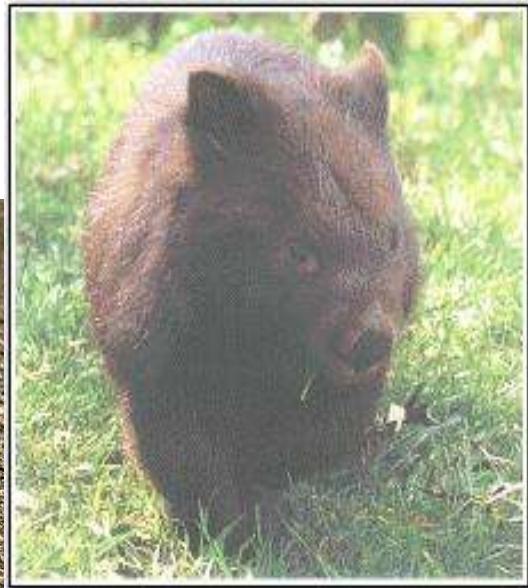
Platypus- ornithorynche

Kangaroo- kangourou

Koala- koala

Wombat- phascolome

To burrow- creuser



Common wombat



THEME :

The 18th century was famous for its exploration by European powers of places all over the world. In 1770 the English explored Australia as a possible future colony. The choice would be between Gibraltar, the West coast of Africa and Botany Bay in new Holland as it was then known. In the end, Botany Bay was chosen. In 1788 under Captain Arthur Phillip a penal colony was established.

Another very important reason why Australia was chosen was that England would have a trade route through to the Pacific and stop other European powers (e.g. France and Holland) from having a monopoly on trade.

THEATRE EXERCISE :

1. If possible, make an empty space in your classroom. Ask the class to walk around the room slowly and in silence. Slowly imagine you are in a boat on the sea. The sea starts to get rough, the wind is strong and then all of a sudden you see the land and you have never seen such a landscape. What reactions do you have? (Sounds? Words?....**oooh! aaah! Great! Excellent! Oh dear! Oh no!**)
2. Imagine you are Captain James Cook. You arrive in a new world. You meet a new people but you do not speak the same language. You must communicate without speaking. What gestures do you use to greet? To offer food? Then add words. Imagine you are Joseph Banks. You discover a new animal. Using simple language describe what it looks like and let other students guess what kind of animal it is.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS :

- A. What reaction did Captain James Cook have when he first arrived in Australia?
- B. How did the English react to the Aborigines?
- C. What kind of animals did Joseph Banks discover in Australia?

3. Alexander Pearce, the Van Diemen's Land Convict:



Alexander Pearce is a stout (*brave*) and determined convict (*bagnard*). He's spent many years in prison and is obsessed with escape. He is in prison in Van Diemen's Land (the name changed to 'Tasmania' in 1856 after transportation ended).

Scene Extract #1:

The Judge : 'Alexander Pearce! You have been found guilty of stealing 6 pairs of shoes- you are to be hanged- no! Wait a moment! Hanging's too good for you. I hereby sentence you to 7 years!...7 years transportation to Botany Bay...Australia!'

Vocabulary:

Guilty- coupable

Stealing- voler

Hanging- pendaison

Transportation- une expression à l'époque de la colonisation de l'Australie où les bagnards étaient envoyés de leur pays pour servir un certain nombre d'années, souvent un minimum de 7 ans avec très peu de possibilité ensuite de rentrer chez eux.

Song

(Chanson traditionnel des bagnards envoyés en Australie)

(Botany Bay est le nom d'un lieu à Sydney nommé par Joseph Banks à cause de l'abondance de flore trouvée là)

Bound for Botany Bay

Singing too-rall, li-oo-rall, li-ad-di-ty,
Singing too-rall, li-oo-rall, li-ay,
Singing too-rall, li-oo-rall, li-ad-di-ty
Oh we are bound for Botany Bay

Farewell to Old England forever
Farewell to my old pals as well
Farewell to the well known old Bailee
Where I once used to be such a swell
Where I once used to be such a swell.

Bound- à destination de

'too-rall, li-oo-rall, li-ad-di-ty' - chantonnant

farewell- adieu

pals- les potes

'old Bailee' (old Bailey) – un tribunal très connu à Londres où beaucoup de bagnards furent jugés

'swell' - quelqu'un qui se vante (ironique), qui était fier d'apparaître devant un juge

Here is a link to one version of the song online.

I can provide another 'A Cappella' version if required.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2Eot7XDk8Y>

SCENE EXTRACT #2:

Alexander: “I was transported here to the wildest, remotest and most savage prison imaginable on the West coast of Tasmania- Macquarie Harbour- also known as Hell’s Gates. It was while I was working in the sawpit gang that I saw a small, empty boat. I decided there and then to take my chances and escape. 6 other convicts came with me. We rowed across the harbour, ran the boat ashore and smashed the bottom with the axe and set out on foot. We were crossing some of the worst bush in Australia- full of giant trees, steep cliffs and hanging creepers. Oh how that sun can burn.”

VOCABULARY:

Bush- la brousse australienne

Sawpit gang- bande de bagnards qui coupaient du bois

Harbour- baie

Axe- hache

Steep- raid

Creeper- plante rampante

THEME:

When you find yourself on the other side of the world you want to escape and get back ‘home’. For the convicts this was virtually impossible. Alexander Pearce has an idea of getting back to England, although having the intention of doing something and the reality can be two very different things.

THEATRE EXERCISE:

1. “Caught”. One student is the guard. The guard faces the wall. All the class are convicts. The guard says “1,2,3 Caught”! and turns around. The convicts freeze. If he/she sees a convict move they must go back to the start. The convicts must move from one side of the room to touch the guard on the shoulder and shout ‘Free!’ (based on 123 Soleil!)

2. Divide the class into small groups (e.g. 5 students). Imagine you are convicts (one group of 5) and you are escaping from prison. Have two students playing the guards and ‘stage’ the escape. Follow the steps:

A-Nighttime- everyone is sleeping except the two guards.

B- The convicts ‘wake up’, leave quietly and get past the guards.

C- The convicts find a boat and row away.

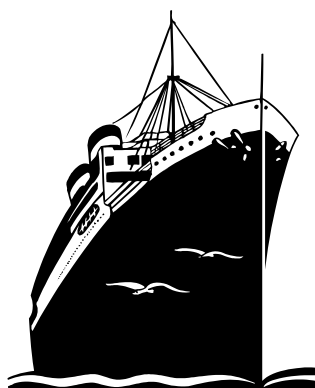
D- It is morning and the guards see that the convicts are gone. What reaction do they have?

E- What reaction do the convicts have? (Change groups)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Essayez de vous mettre dans la peau d’Alexander Pearce! Comment vous sentiriez-vous si vous étiez dans la même position ? Tenteriez-vous de rentrer chez vous ? Quelles sont les contraintes à prendre en considération pour s’échapper?

3. Giuseppe, Italian Immigration



Giuseppe is Italian and has a difficult time in Italy looking for work after the war, he is determined to make a better life and goes to live in Australia. He now lives in Melbourne.

Scene Extracts:

‘But in Italy after the war there is no work....’

(Giuseppe is getting ready to leave Italy for Australia.)

‘...so I pack my bags, kiss my mother goodbye. I go all the way to Genova... we go all the way to Genova and I get on the boat and wave goodbye to Italy, arrivederci Italia! Maybe it’s the last time I see Italy.’

‘... then after 3 weeks in all we dock at Melbourne, Australia. I must look for the train station and get on the train with 100 other immigrants and we go to the mountains. It’s a long way but we stop on the way to have lunch. “Spaghetti?” “Forget about spaghetti!”’

(Giuseppe has to work for the Australian government but doesn’t know yet what he must do)

‘...my first day of work and Joe gives me sticks of dynamite. Yes, it’s dynamite. It is to blow up the rocks to build the dam for hydro-electricity. But I am a carpenter and know nothing about explosives. He says it’s easy... so I say yes, alright, after all I’ve come 16,000km to live here!’

Vocabulary:

dock- se mettre à quai **station**- gare **hall**- salle **dam**- barrage

carpenter- menuisier

THEME :

Some countries in the world had or have active immigration programmes. Australia is one of these countries. They also accept that family back in the 'old' country can join relatives in the 'new' country. This is also the case with France. But what attitudes are found in the new country that you have to accept? Customs can be very different even between 'European style' countries. This episode puts the character in a situation of accepting, rejecting or adapting to new ways.

THEATRE EXERCISE :

1. **Encounter**. Divide the class into pairs. You are in France. One plays the 'immigrant' (l'immigré) and the other plays the 'local' (personne du coin). The 'local' must welcome the 'immigrant' to the country and show him/her one aspect of the culture. Firstly, think of 1 important difference in food culture between 2 countries that you know (e.g. what time you have dinner/ what is a favourite dish to eat?) Now, play the scene where this difference becomes a pretext for an argument.
Repeat BUT this time in English!

2. **The Café** (Giuseppe is in an Australian Café)

2 Actors: Giuseppe and a Waiter/ Waitress

Giuseppe: Good morning.

W/ ess: Mornin'. What'll it be?

Giuseppe: I beg your pardon?

W/ ess: What'll you have?

Giuseppe: Coffee please.

W/ ess: Righto! (*Serving a long black coffee*)

Giuseppe: Excuse me, but I would like an espresso.

W/ess: This is how we drink coffee. Long black in a big mug.

Giuseppe: (*Trying it*) Oh, it's not very good.

W/ess: Whaddya mean?

Giuseppe: I mean, no offence, but I cannot drink it.

W/ess: Well how do you expect to live here if you can't accept how we drink our coffee?

Giuseppe: I think I will leave it.

W/ess: Suit yourself. You know, when you come to a new country, you have to know how to adapt- you have to leave the old country behind. What do you think?

Giuseppe: Well, I think _____ (What will you say?)

Note for Teachers:

There is an expression that is ‘When in Rome do as the Romans do.’

Giuseppe is caught between 2 worlds, his home country to which he is still attached and his ‘new, adoptive’ country.

Push the students to explore all the possibilities of outcome in this scene.

- a. How do you think Giuseppe feels in a new country (optimistic, enthusiastic, homesick, lonely...? Find other adjectives)**
- b. Have you ever been to another country either as a visitor or to live?**
- c. To what extent do you think a person can be 2 different nationalities?**
- d. Do you think there is a great difference in attitudes to this dilemma from different cultures?**

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Il peut y avoir de grandes différences envers la nourriture entre pays.

Connaissez-vous une histoire drôle qui vous est arrivé dans un autre pays à propos de la nourriture? Raconte-la à la classe.

5. Mad Dan recounts The Songlines, Aboriginal Dreaming and 'The Burke and Wills Expedition'



Scene Extract #1:

Mad Dan: “G’day, Mad Dan’s the name. I drive a road train from Alice Springs to Darwin, and back again. In the morning, I have brekky- breakfast- damper and billy tea...

...

Then come the mossies and blowies, so I do the great Aussie salute...

...

‘There are so many wild camels in the desert in Australia you can find camel lasagna on the menu at some restaurants. It’s true.”

Scene Extract #2:

Mad Dan: A songline is like a map and direction-finder- as long as you knew the song you could find your way.

....

Bruce: I’d like to buy an Aboriginal painting- who did this one ?

Mad Dan: I asked Stan the aboriginal who painted it- what have you got here Stan ?

Stan: ‘Honey-ant.’

Mad Dan: Honey-ant dreaming?

Stan: Yes.

Bruce: I can’t see any ants in this painting- you mean it’s a painting of an ant’s nest? like those pink tubes are passages?

Mad Dan: No, the painting shows the journey of the honey-ant ancestor.

Bruce: Like it’s a route map?

Mad Dan: Exactly!

Bruce: So is the honey-ant Stan’s dreaming?

Mad Dan: No, it’s emu!

Bruce: Could he paint an emu-dreaming?

Mad Dan: No, no artist paints his own dreaming- it’s too powerful, it might kill him.

Bruce: You mean he can’t paint his own dreaming but he can paint somebody else’s ? Like he can’t eat emu but he can eat honey-ants!

Mad Dan: Right!

Scene Extract #3:

Burke: Why are we going on this expedition? To boldly go where no man has gone before...**Aboriginal Voice:** “Hey, we’ve been here before. We’ve been all over this land. This is our land.”

Burke: Righto! “to boldly go where no white man has gone before.

To discover the mystery of the interior; for science, to discover new animals, gold and minerals;

to find new and fertile lands;

to help establish a telegraph line to London- a bit like today’s internet.’

Vocabul ar y:

Road train- camion avec trois remorques; **Brekky**- petit déjeuner ;
Mossie- moustique; **Blowie**- mouche; **Camel**- chameau; **Songline**-
chant de piste ; **Honey-ant**- fourmi a miel ; **Emu**- émeu

Themes:

Mad Dan meets an English writer, Bruce Chatwin, who is in Australia to find out more about the Songlines and Aboriginal Dreaming. A short exchange between Mad Dan and Bruce is adapted from a short passage in Bruce Chatwin's book 'The Songlines.'

The themes of exploration can be similar for many expeditions- scientific advancement, discovery of natural resources, trade, establishing contact with the rest of the world, making a name for yourself ...

Discussion Questions:

Où rêvez-vous aller? Si vous vouliez organiser un voyage où iriez-vous dans le monde? Le désert du Sahara? L'Antarctique?

L'Himalaya? Les îles du Pacifique? Cela demanderait beaucoup de préparation. Comment feriez-vous? Quelle nourriture prendriez-vous?

Geography Exercise:



Find the following places on the map: Melbourne, Coopers Creek, Gulf of Carpentaria, Menindee and Mount Hopeless. (*Use both maps*)

How far do you think the Gulf of Carpentaria is from Melbourne?
(Hint: It's like if you go from Paris to Marseille and back to Paris and back to Marseille and back to Paris again!)

Theatre Exercise:

Ask the class to walk in the space. On the count of **THREE** all students must get into groups of 5. Now, in your groups spend 5 minutes creating a scene where you go on an expedition. Where do you go? What is the purpose? What would you take? How long will it take? 1 is the leader; 2 is the second in command; 3 is the cook; 4 is navigator; 5 is photographer.

ACT OUT the scenes, with humour!

ACTORS, be ready for the teacher or another student to ask you questions about your expedition!

EXTRA ACTIVITY:

AT HOME: COOKING!

This is a traditional Australian sweet. They're called **ANZAC biscuits** (named after the Australia New Zealand Army Corps).

Be careful to get all of the right ingredients.



These biscuits are a fair-dinkum part of Australian culture and a real taste treat.

Recipe in English

Ingredients: 1 Cup of Rolled Oats/ 1 Cup of Plain Flour/ 1 Cup of Sugar/ $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup of Shredded Coconut/ 125g Butter/ 4 Tablespoons of Golden Syrup/ $\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon of Bicarbonate of Soda/ 1 Teaspoon of Boiling Water.

Method: Combine oats, sifted flour, sugar and coconut. Combine butter and golden syrup, stir over gentle heat until melted. Mix bicarbonate of soda with boiling water, add to melted butter mixture, stir into dried ingredients. Place tablespoonfuls of mixture onto lightly greased oven trays; allow room for spreading. Bake on low ($\sim 100^{\circ}\text{C}$) for 20 minutes. Loosen while warm, and then cool on trays.

Recette en français

Ingrédients: 1 Tasse Flocons d'Avoine / 1 Tasse Farine/ 1 Tasse Sucre/ $\frac{3}{4}$ Tasse Noix de Coco Déchiqueté/ 125g Beurre/ 4 Cuillères à Soupe de Sirop de Sucre Roux/ $\frac{1}{2}$ Cuillère à Café de Bicarbonate de Soude/ 1 Cuillère à Café d'Eau bouillante.

Méthode : Mélangez l'avoine, la farine tamisée, le sucre et la noix de coco. Mélangez le beurre et le sirop de sucre dans une casserole sur la cuisinière à feu doux jusqu'à que ça fonde. Mélangez bicarbonate de soude avec l'eau bouillante, rajoutez à la mélange de beurre fondu, versez le tout dans les ingrédients secs.

Disposez de petites quantités du mélange sur des plateaux de four un peu beurré ; laissez de la place pour que les biscuits prennent forme. Cuire à température basse ($\sim 100^{\circ}\text{C}$) pendant 20 minutes. Défaites-les pendant qu'ils sont toujours chauds pour les laisser refroidir sur les plateaux.



SHOW QUIZ!

(Les réponses à certaines questions peuvent être apprises uniquement en regardant le spectacle.)

Listen, Watch and after the show answer these questions:

1. How do you say hello in Australian English?

2. How much bigger is Australia compared to France?

3. What is the name of the leader of the English explorers?

4. Where did the English land in Australia?

5. What is the name given to sending a convict to a distant penal settlement?

6. Why was Alexander Pearce transported?

7. How did Pearce survive in the wilderness?

8. What was the animal that Pearce met one night?

9. What was Giuseppe's trade?

10. How did he get to Australia and how long did the voyage last?

11. What work did Giuseppe first have to do in Australia?

12. What work does Mad Dan do?

13. What is one way to describe a songline?

14. What is the type of Dreaming described in this scene?

15. What nationality were Burke and Wills?

16. Name one reason for the expedition.

17. At which river was camp 57 established?

18. How far is it from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria?

19. Did Burke and Wills survive?

20. State one expression that you remember in Australian English.

And Beyond:

QUOTES by Authors who visited Australia OR who didn't visit Australia!

Mark Twain who wrote Huckleberry Fin, Tom Sawyer went to Australia in 1895 in Australia for more than a month and I regret the fact I never saw either a kangaroo or an aboriginal; we saw birds, but not a kangaroo, not an emu, not an ornithorynchus, not a native....'

Also in 1895 **Oscar Wilde** who never actually visited Australia but wrote in his play 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

"Uncle Jack is sending you to Australia! Australia!?! I'd sooner die! The accounts I have received of Australia and the next world, are not particularly encouraging. This world is good enough for me, cousin Cecily".

Agatha Christie: in 1922 on a trip to the Blue Mountains from Sydney and although her car broke down at least 6 times they finally made it and she described the Blue Mountains as being cobalt blue, and looking as though they had been transferred onto drawing paper from a paintbox.

The famous evolutionary theorist, **Charles Darwin**, wrote in 1836 after having visited the continent : 'Farewell Australia, you are a rising infant and doubtless some day will reign a great princess in the South'

Charles Dickens who had the idea of doing a Reading Tour of Australia in the 1860s but it never came about; he based his character of Fagin from Oliver Twist on a convict, Ikey Solomon, sent to Tasmania to spend the rest of his days ! He did send two of his sons to Australia and wrote a very moving letter to his youngest son on the eve of his journey there!

READING:

The following is a brief list of Australian writers who capture a certain Australian flavour:

WRITERS: Helen Garner, Sally Morgan, Robyn Davidson, Peter Carey, Barry Dickins, Richard Flanagan, Robert Hughes, Patrick White, Tim Winton

FILMS:

The following is a brief list of Australian films that capture Australian themes:

FILMS: Walkabout, Picnic at Hanging Rock, The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, Gallipoli, My Brilliant Career, Crocodile Dundee, Burke and Wills, Australia, Priscilla Queen of the Desert

For those looking for more information about Australia the following link takes you to the

Australia- France Foundation:

<http://www.france.embassy.gov.au/parifrancais/home.html>

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