

Sydney Learning Adventures



Groundwork Extended

Archaeology at the Big Dig

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS



Schedule for the day

Time	Session	Component	Location
9:00 – 9:20am	Arrive at Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre		
9:30am	Session 1	Meet the archaeologist	Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre
10:15am	Session 2	Big Dig site tour	Big Dig archaeological site
11:00am	QUICK BATHROOM / DRINK BREAK		
11:10am	Session 3	Artefact Analysis Activity	Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre
12:00pm	LUNCH Walk to Dawes Point (under Harbour Bridge, George Street) Map REF. 4 MEET GUIDE AT ENTRANCE AT 12:45PM		
12:45pm	Session 4	Dawes Point archaeological site	Dawes Point park
1:30pm	WALK TO ROCKS DISCOVERY MUSEUM Kendell Lane, The Rocks (Map ref. 3)		
1:40pm	Session 5	Colony Exhibition	Rocks Discovery Museum
2:15pm	FINISH		

Map of The Rocks



- 1 The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre (meeting spot)
- 2 Sydney Harbour YHA entry
- 3 The Rocks Discovery Museum
- 4 Dawes Point

The Big Dig Archaeological Education Centre

110 Cumberland Street, The Rocks

'The Big Dig' was the popular name used for the Cumberland and Gloucester Streets archaeological excavation that took place in 1994. It is Australia's largest urban archaeological site and plays an on-going historical and educational role. Over a million artefacts have been recovered from the site, revealing the style and manner in which people lived in colonial Australia in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre is a free-standing archaeology educational facility, located on the south-east corner of the site between Carahers Lane and Gloucester Street. The location for the centre was chosen as it overlooks the remnants of George Cribb's property (an important character in The Rocks in the 1800s), allowing this area to remain open, fully visible and accessible to visiting groups.

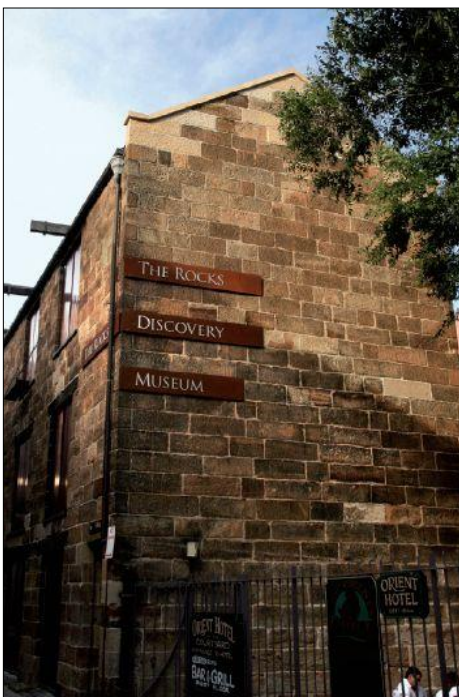


The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre



Rocks Discovery Museum

Kendall Lane The Rocks (enter via Argyle Street)



The Rocks Discovery Museum is a free, family friendly museum which tells the story of The Rocks area of Sydney from pre-European days to the present. Housed in a restored 1850s sandstone warehouse, The Rocks Discovery Museum is home to a unique collection of images and archaeological artefacts found in The Rocks. The exhibits are filled with interactive fun, using touch screens, audio and visual elements to bring the history of the area alive.

Learn about the area's traditional landowners, the establishment of the English colony and the time when sailors, whalers and traders made the area their home; through to the 1970s union-led protests which preserved this unique part of Sydney for future generations to explore and enjoy. Open 10am - 5pm daily (Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day)

T 1800 067 676

The Rocks Discovery Museum

Dawes Point Battery Remains

Dawes Point *Tar ra* is the name given to the peninsula that separates Sydney Cove and Walsh Bay, on the southern shores of Port Jackson, it is located at the narrowest Point of Sydney Harbour. Historically, it has been known as '*Tar ra*' (its Aboriginal name), Point Maskelyne and Slaughterhouse Point.

Unlike The Rocks, Dawes Point *Tar ra* has contained a large area of relatively undeveloped land since the arrival of the First Fleet to Australia in 1788. This was primarily due to its military use. The Dawes Point Battery was built up as a military defence compound from 1791 through to the early twentieth century. This ensured that the Battery was spatially separated from both The Rocks and the rest of Sydney, largely because visitors to the site were restricted until 1878. The construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge piers and pylon on the site in the 1920s further alienated this area from the rest of The Rocks.

In 1995 archaeological investigations were carried out at the Battery site and the findings were incorporated into a new interpretive park. This was opened in 2000 and the new dual name was adopted for the point.

Dawes Point *Tar ra* has had a range of uses over the past 120 years, including the military, navigation and astronomy, and more recently, for leisure. Compared to the rest of The Rocks and Millers Point, it was kept relatively free of development due these uses, and as the site of the abutment towers for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Small powder magazine under restoration, Dawes Point Battery 2001