

ARCHAEOLOGY Adventure



Pen Nib

Artefact Card

1846



846 Site 1A
Sito 1A
Gravel
3
Rare

This is a very old pen nib. Before this, people would sharpen the end of large feather (called a quill) and dip this in ink to use as a pen. Gold nibs like this one cost a lot of money. Gold is a soft metal and writing with a gold nib is much smoother than with pen nibs made of other metals like steel.







ARCHAEOLOGY Adventure



Ink Well

Artefact Card

1840



\$	
Era	1840
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This glass ink well would have sat on a desk and been used with a nibbed pen. Perhaps it belonged to someone who wrote many letters and reports? See how the ink well's shape is just right for dipping a pen. The flat sides and bottom make it very hard to tip over. That's good because no-one wants to clean up spilt ink!









Writing Slate

Artefact Card

1840



Era	1840
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	9
Rarity	Common

Writing slates and slate pencils were once part of everyday life in Australia. Paper cost a lot of money and was only for grownups. Children learned to write and spell on the slate. It could be wiped clean with a wet piece of cloth or sponge. Sometimes there were lines on the slate to help keep the writing neat. Once children had learned to write well using the slate, they moved on to practising with pen and ink.









Hair Comb

Artefact Card

mid 1800s



M	
Era	mid 1800s
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Sand
Total to be found	3
Rarity	Rare

In the 1800s, most women and girls had long hair and they washed it less than once a week. They used combs, pins and ribbons to keep their hair tidy and off their faces. Before we had plastic, hair combs were made of wood, bone or even tortoiseshell and ivory. This hair comb is plain and simple. It's likely someone wore it every day.







ARCHAEOLOGY Adventure



Tooth

Artefact Card

1900-1920



7	
Era	1900-1920
Where	Site 1B
Material found in	1 gold and not gold in sand, 1 gold and not gold in gravel
Total to be found	10 (2 with gold filling)
Rarity	Common

Yes, these really are human teeth. Unlike the baby ones you lost as a child, they have been pulled out from the roots! We can see that these teeth are rotten and many have holes. They would have given their owners a lot of pain. There do seem to be a lot of teeth on this site. Keep digging, you might find one with a gold filling!









Medicine Bottle

1900

Artefact Card



Era	1900
Where	Site 1B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

Small bottles like this were used for pain medicine. At this time many strong and even dangerous medicines could be bought without visiting a doctor. None of them were properly tested to see if they actually worked. The square sides and shape of the bottle was a reminder that what was inside was a medicine - and to keep it away from children. It also made the bottle easier to find if you woke up in pain during the night and needed to feel for it in the dark.









Era	1900
Where	Site 1B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This is a very old set of false teeth - also called dentures. Many people had false teeth made to replace the ones they had lost when their teeth went rotten. False teeth were not very nice to wear but they were better than trying to speak or chew with no teeth at all! Before going to sleep, people would take their false teeth out and put them in a glass of water in the bathroom or next to their bed.







ARCHAEOLOGY Adventure



Dice

1870

Artefact Card



Era	1870
Where	Site 2A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	8
Rarity	Common

This is one of many dice made of cattle bone and ivory found on the site. People enjoyed playing games with dice and would take their own ones with them to pubs and hotels.









Swizzle Stick

late 1800s

Artefact Card



N	
Era	late 1800s
Where	Site 2A
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	7
Rarity	Rare

This glass swizzle stick was used to stir drinks. Building a new city was hard work and water was not always easy to find. Fizzy tonics were added to strong alcohol to make a refreshing drink.

Some people found that the fizz made them burp or and fart, but a quick stir with the swizzle stick flattened the bubbles - problem solved!









Corkscrew

Artefact Card

late 1800s



†	
Era	late 1800s
Where	Site 2A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

Old fashioned bottles of alcohol were sealed with a cork. The seal was removed by twisting a corkscrew into the cork and then pulling the whole thing out.







ARCHAEOLOGY Adventure



Lollies Jar

Artefact Card

1920s



Era	1920s
Where	Site 2B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

Before plastic packaging, many products were stored and sold in glass jars. This one from Bates Chocolate Depot would make it easy to see the colourful treats inside.









Freddo Frog Advert

1930s

Artefact Card



Image Courtesy Public domain

FREDDO	
Era	1930s
Where	Site 2B
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

You have found a scrap of a very early advertisement for Freddo Frogs. The Freddo Frog was invented in Melbourne in 1930 and is still sold today worldwide! At first there were just four varieties available: milk chocolate, white chocolate, half milk/half white, and milk chocolate with peanuts. A Freddo Frog cost 1 pence or 1d in old money (around 30c in today's money, 2019).









Shop Receipt

Artefact Card

1920-1950

C	441	
4 x Fredda	5.	d. H
4 x Freedolos 2 x Cherry Rips	6	8
T		
	-	
TOTAL	1/	2
240-8/41		

SALE FREDDO 11	
Era	1920-1950
Where	Site 2B
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This is a hand-written shop receipt for a small number of goods. It uses the old, pre-decimal money: pounds, shillings and pence.

12 pence (d) = 1 shilling (s)

20 shillings = 1 pound (£)

In 1930 £1 (one pound) was worth around \$75 in today's money (2019).









Toy Soldier

1850–1890

Artefact Card



Era	1850-1890
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This 5cm tall toy soldier made of lead and tin would have been part of a set. His uniform tells us he was a British army drummer from the time of the battle of Waterloo (1815). You can still see some of his brightly painted red coat! Drummers sent signals and kept the beat as soldiers marched into battle.









Chinese Lion Teapot Lid

Artefact Card

1860–1890





This rare find sat on top of a teapot lid. The Chinese Lion is a symbol of wealth and good fortune. Steam from the hot tea would escape from its mouth. It probably arrived in Australia during the Gold Rush. Many Chinese people came to Melbourne to dig for gold or set up shops selling supplies to other hopeful gold diggers.







Artefact Card



Miniature Doll's Head

1850s



V	
Era	1850s
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	2
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This tiny painted china head comes from a doll known as a "Frozen Charlotte". The name comes from a song about a foolish girl who refused to cover up on a winter night and froze to death. They came in many sizes and were often put in dolls houses. The smallest ones were sometimes used as charms in Christmas puddings. Others could float and were popular as bath toys.







MSS2 2083

2	
Era	1850-1890
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	4 in Gravel, 4 in Sand
Total to be found	2
Rarity	Ultra Rare

Children in colonial Melbourne would have played with marbles just like children today. Early marbles were hand-made from ceramics and glass. Some were collected for their beauty and could be won from other children in games of skill and chance. Of course, marbles were always getting lost. Some things never change!











Printing Plate

Artefact Card

1890-1905



Era	1890-1905
Where	Site 3B
Material found in	Sand
Total to be found	8
Rarity	Common

Before the invention of digital printing, everything that was printed had to be "type set" or made from a plate like this. Can you see how the lettering is all back-to-front? Once fresh ink was applied and the plate made contact with paper, everything would appear the right way around. This plate is for the wrapping paper that went around a bar of Empire Soap.









Light Bulb

Artefact Card

early 1900s



Ŧ	
Era	early 1900s
Where	Site 3B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This rare find is a very early electric light bulb. Amazingly it was found completely unbroken! Electricity was quite new at this time and had not been put into most ordinary homes. Whoever used this space required good lighting, perhaps because they were working both day and night.













ARCHAEOLOGY Adventure



Weight

Artefact Card

1800s



A	
Era	1800s
Where	Site 4A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

These days most foods come ready made and packaged but in colonial Australia people bought raw items and cooked nearly all of their meals at home. This weight and several others of different sizes would have been used with a set of scales to weigh items like butter or flour. Once the scales balanced, you'd know exactly how much the customer wanted to buy and could work out the correct price.









Biscuits

Artefact Card

1855



Era	1855
Where	Site 4A
found in	Ash (Black concrete powder)
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

Very few food items from this time have survived but we bet you'll dig up more than one biscuit here! The shape and design of this biscuit tells us that it was made in an English factory, Huntley and Palmer, which first opened in 1822. By 1900 Huntley and Palmer was the world's largest biscuit company. Once you have guessed the identity of this site you'll learn more about how these biscuits came to survive so long underground.









Marmalade Jar

1855-1890

Artefact Card



Era	1855-1890
Where	Site 4A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This jar of marmalade came all the way from Scotland. Janet Keiller and her son James started the first ever marmalade business in 1797. By the late 19th century, they were sending the things they made all over the world. Goods that came from Great Britain were often expensive and a bit of a treat. You wouldn't expect to find more than one jar of marmalade in a single home.







Spanish Tile

Artefact Card

1930



Era	1930
Where	Site 4B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This brightly coloured Spanish tile was used to decorate a very smart room. In 1930 Melbourne's population was still quite small: 1 million people (4.5 million people live in Melbourne today, 2019). There was not much choice in the things that were being made locally. Many people had come over from Europe. They liked to go out to places that reminded them of their "old world", so these imported Spanish tiles were just the thing.















Artefact Card



Gold Bird Brooch

early 1900s



R	
Era	early 1900s
Where	Site 4B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

The person who lost this gold brooch must have been sad to find it missing. It's a pretty piece of jewellery decorated with a little blue bird - something that might have been given as a gift and worn out for a special occasion.













Artefact Card



Gold Sovereign

1879



Image Courtesy State Library Victoria

6	
Era	1879
Where	Cesspit
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

Oops! Did this coin fall out of someone's pocket when they pulled down their trousers to go to the toilet? In any case, it was lost for good until you found it. In 1870 this gold sovereign was worth £1 (1 pound) - about \$116 in today's money (2019).









Fruit Seeds

Artefact Card

Various



Era	Various
Where	Cesspit
Material found in	6 in Gravel, 4 in Dirt
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

Pips, seeds and shells from every kind of fruit, vegetable and nut found their way into cesspits which were both rubbish tips and part of the waste water system. Archaeologists always make time to investigate cesspits because they are a great place to learn what people liked to eat over time.









Tree Stump

Artefact Card

Pre-Colonial





Image Courtesy State Library of Victoria

Era	Pre-Colonial
Where	Excavation site
Material found in	Jutting out of 'clay'
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This huge tree stump, deep underground, reminds us what was on this site long before Europeans came to Melbourne in the 1830s. Close to the river and the sea, this area was once full of trees and many Indigenous Australians lived well on this land. The colonial settlers cut down the forest to make way for their growing city. You won't find many trees as big and old as this in Melbourne today.









Site 1A – Girls' School

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1838-1850

This was the site of Roxburgh Ladies' Seminary, Melbourne's first girls' school.

The owner, Nichola Anne Cooke, sailed to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in August 1838 on the *Amelia Thompson*. She moved to Melbourne, where she taught the daughters of John Batman, the founder the European settlement. After losing her mother and three sisters when the ship *Yarra Yarra* sank in Bass Strait, Cooke set up a school in a building she rented from John Batman. The building, known as Roxburgh Cottage, was in the same place as today's Young & Jackson Hotel. By May 1839 the school had 15 pupils. Two of John Batman's daughters lived at Nichola Cooke's school.

After John Batman died in 1839, Nichola Cooke had to go to court in order to keep the school open and stay at Roxburgh Cottage. She successfully argued that her school was important to the lives of Batman's daughters. At this time women didn't even have the right to own property or vote but Nichola won her court case. Only very rich people had the money to send their daughters to a private girls' school. Most girls were taught at home and went to work as servants or in the family business once they were 11 or 12 years old. The girls of Roxburgh Ladies' Seminary were not being educated so they could go to work. As well as maths and English, they had lessons in sewing, music and dancing. These young women were being taught to become good wives and, once they married, they would run a house with servants of their own.

ltem		Era	No.	Rarity
-	lnk Well	1840	1	Ultra Rare
Å	Pen Nib	1846	3	Rare
M	Hair Comb	mid 1800s	3	Rare
	Writing Slate	1840	9	Common

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Poster advertising free passage on the Amelia Thompson for women. Public Records Office Victoria (Suffolk Record Office, M942, Papers, Earl of Stradbroke)



John Batman, 1800-1839. State Library of Victoria



Various styles of steel pen nibs. C. 1880s. State Library of Victoria







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Site 1B – Dentist

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1900-1930

Dentist JJ Forster worked at 11 Swanston Street from 1898 to the 1930s.

In the days before fluoride was added to our water, people had far more tooth decay. More than 1,000 teeth were found on the archaeological dig, many with massive holes that must have been very painful.

JJ Forster's advertisements said that he could remove teeth "without pain" but that really wasn't true. In the early 1900s dentists used old-fashioned tools. They would hollow out a cavity using a pedal-driven drill. There was also no paracetamol or antibiotics to help patients with pain or infection.

Not surprisingly, most people avoided going to the dentist. Some even had all their teeth taken out and replaced with a false set so they didn't have to put up with tooth pain ever again!

ltem		Era	No.	Rarity
en de la compañía de	Dentures	1900	1	Ultra Rare
4	Tooth (with gold filling)	1900-1920	2	Ultra Rare
	Medicine Bottle	1900	5	Rare
4	Tooth	1900-1920	8	Common



Tooth powder, an early and not very effective form of toothpaste. National Museum Australia



Pedal driven dentist's drill. National Museum Australia



Advertisement JJ Forster dentist. National Library of Australia (Trove) -The Herald, 5th February 1924











Site 2A – Hotel

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1856-1910

There were pubs and hotels on this site from the very earliest days of colonial Melbourne.

In Australia, until the 1980s, the government made pubs provide rooms for people to stay the night, and so they are also known as hotels.

Colonial hotels sold alcoholic spirits like rum or brandy more than beer. Small amounts of spirits were mixed with tonic water or fizzy sodas to take away the strong taste and make a more refreshing drink.

Soda bottles were made with thick glass. They had a marble and a rubber washer in the neck. The bottles were filled upside down, and the pressure of the gas in the bottle forced the marble against the washer, so the fizz could not escape.

There was little chance of getting a cold drink until the introduction of electricity in the early part of the 20th Century. Before that, ice was shipped to the colony from as far away as Boston in the United States. An iceman would visit each home and people would store their supply in a thick ice chest. Hotels in the 19th century were centres for entertainment. There would be singalongs, gambling with dice and cards, climbing greasy poles and catching greased-up pigs, apple bobbing, boxing or bowling matches.

Many women worked in pubs and hotels and some even owned them but they were not considered a "proper" place for a woman to be seen, especially if she wasn't with a man. Over time some hotels opened separate "ladies lounges" but in Australia, women were not allowed in bars until well into the 1970s.

ltem		Era	No.	Rarity
Ŧ	Corkscrew	late 1800s	1	Ultra Rare
1	Swizzle Stick	late 1800s	7	Rare
	Dice	1870	8	Common



"Codd-neck" bottles contained a marble to trap in the soda bubbles. Auckland War Memorial Museum



The transportation of ice. Ray - Harper's Weekly, 30 August 1884











Site 2B – Chocolate Shop

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1921-1935

This is the where Bates Chocolate Depot had its store. These days, sweets are usually sold in packaging at the supermarket or local store.

At Bates, children would have gueued up with their pennies and carefully chosen their own mixed bag of Iollies from the brightly coloured jars behind the counter.

Businesses have been making lollies and chocolates in Melbourne for a long time, including Bates, Allens and MacRobertson's. In 1930, the MacRobertson's company wanted to make a new chocolate for kids. They thought about making a chocolate mouse, but a young man working at the factory, Harry Melbourne, said that a frog would be better because women and children were afraid of mice.

Freddo Frogs became part of Cadbury's product range in 1967, when MacRobertson's was sold to Cadbury. More than 90 million Freddos are sold in Australia each year alone! Sir Macpherson Robertson was one of Australia's greatest ever businessmen. At the age of eleven he began work as a sugar-stirrer and worked his way to the top. He started the company MacRobertson's in his mother's bathroom. Products like Cherry Ripe (invented in 1924) and Freddo Frog made it a giant. Robertson liked to show off but he also gave a lot of money and support to good causes. He funded Mawson's Antarctic expeditions and a series of international airplane races. When he died, his businesses were valued at almost £600,000 that's at least \$185,000,000 in today's money (2019)!

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
FREDDO	Freddo Frog Advert	1930s	1	Ultra Rare
SALE FREDDO 11	Shop Receipt	1920-1950	5	Rare
	Lollies Jar	1920s	10	Common



1941 newspaper advertisement for Freddo Frogs.

National Library of Australia (Trove) The Sun, Sunday March 2,1941



Interior of a sweet shop. State Library of Victoria



Macpherson Robertson, 1859-1945, founder of confectionery company MacRobertson's. State Library of Victoria









Site 3A – Home

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1850-1890

In colonial Melbourne most business or shop owners lived on top of or behind their building. These homes were often small with lots of kids sharing a bedroom - often they shared a bed.

Most homes didn't have a separate bathroom. Families would place a tin or copper tub in front of the fire and everyone would take it in turns to use the same water. Grown-ups went first!

Because there wasn't much light or space inside the homes, children would play in the yards and alleyways outside. Playing marbles was really popular.

ltem		Era	No.	Rarity
*	Chinese Lion Teapot Lid	1860-1890	1	Ultra Rare
67	Miniature Doll's Head	1850s	2	Ultra Rare
	Toy Soldier	1850-1890	5	Rare
٧	Marbles	1850-1890	8	Common

How To Play Marbles

- Draw a circle 3 feet (90cm) wide on a pavement in chalk, or make one out of string
- Choose your shooter marble this should be bigger than any of your other marbles
- Put 5 to 10 other marbles in the centre of the ring to play
- When it's your turn, kneel outside the ring and flick your shooter marble out of your fist with your thumb, trying to hit the other marbles out of the ring
- If you knock any marbles out of the ring, keep them and have another turn
- If you don't knock any marbles out of the ring, leave your shooter marble in the ring until your next turn and let the next player take their turn
- Continue until the ring is empty



Boys playing marbles, circa 1870. A. Suzanne, George Eastman Museum



A mother bathing her children in a tub, late 1800s. State Library of Victoria



Kitchen, late 1800s. State Library of Victoria



UCATIO



Education and Training





Site 3B – Printer

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1890-1905

We found hundreds of used lead type and printing plates when we were digging in the centre of Melbourne. These belonged to the printers who used to live and work here.

Imagine if every newspaper had to be made by putting little metal letters one at a time into a frame - back to front. That's how it was done! Printers would work long into the night "type setting" each page, ready to be inked and then pressed onto sheets of paper to make copies of the news for the next morning.

Early newspapers didn't have many pictures. These had to be hand drawn and printed from specially moulded plates. Businesses would have their own printing plates made up for labels, wrapping paper and advertisements. Plates for 'Empire Soap' were found on our sites. This soap was made by George Mowling & Sons.

ltem		Era	No.	Rarity
	Light Bulb	Early 1900s	1	Ultra Rare
1	Crucible	Early 1900s	7	Rare
	Printing Plate	1890-1905	8	Common



Advertisement for Turner's General Printing Office. State Library of Victoria



Printing The Age newspaper in 1883. State Library of Victoria











Site 4A – Grocer

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1850-1890

There were grocers' shops here in the second half of the 19th century.

Foods like butter, oats and flour would have been kept in sacks and barrels and weighed at the counter using scales.

Colonial Melbourne was small at first, but it grew quickly once the Gold Rush started in 1852. Thousands of hopeful gold diggers stopped in Melbourne to buy supplies before heading to the dig sites around Ballarat and Bendigo.

People missed the different foods they had enjoyed back home. There was money to be made from shipping things from places like Great Britain, but it could take more than three months to ship them over. The biscuits and jars of marmalade are good examples of this. The archaeologists found lots of biscuits on this site. They look almost perfect but a little black! It turns out that there was a fire at John Connell's grocer shop in 1855. The biscuits were preserved by the heat of the fire and stayed hidden underground in a layer of ash until they were found as part of the archaeological dig. The biscuits are now mostly charcoal and you would not want to eat one!

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
Ā	Weight	1800s	1	Ultra Rare
PLANDA	Marmalade Jar	1855-1890	5	Rare
	Biscuits	1855	10	Common



A scale and set of weights used to weigh and price food such as butter, oats and flour.

Poussin Jean, Wikimedia Commons



The inside of a grocery store with balance scales.
State Library of Victoria

A sample of the prices that food cost per lb. State Library of Victoria











Site 4B - Restaurant

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1910–1950s

This was the site of the Criterion Café, a well known restaurant in Melbourne.

At this time, most people cooked and ate their food at home. Going out for dinner was a special treat. A visit to a restaurant would be an occasion to dress up and young children would not be welcome. The food would be quite simple - soup, pork chops, and fish dishes - but it was still nice to have food brought to your table. Often there were people playing music and big restaurants, like the Criterion Café, often had a dance floor.

It appears that at one time the Criterion Café building also had a cinema ("picture palace") but at first the movies were silent and in black and white. A pianist sat at the front of the cinema and played music to accompany the film. For one penny (1d) you could see two films but "dinner and a movie" didn't become a popular date night until the 1950's. Most people took their food with them to the movies or grabbed a bite to eat from street stall afterwards. The Criterion Café belonged to a man called John Wren (1871 – 1953). At the time that he died, the restaurant was worth £120,000 (that's at least \$4,000,000 today, 2019).

John Wren was born in Collingwood. He came from a poor Irish family and he left school at the age of 12. After working in a wood yard and shoe factory, Wren started to make money from gambling and horse racing. He invented a gambling system that made £20,000 per year, a lot of money back then. John Wren was not always a good man, but he never forgot his family background and did lots of things to help people from similar backgrounds.

John Wren died of a heart attack shortly after his beloved Magpies (that's Collingwood Football Club) won the flag in 1953.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
X	Gold Bird Brooch	early 1900s	1	Ultra Rare
	Spanish Tile	1930	5	Rare
	Cutlery	1930-1940	10	Common



People dressed up and out for dinner (1944). State Library of Victoria



1929 fashion drawing from Manton's Department Store. State Library of Victoria



Film projector (circa 1940-49). State Library of Victoria



Criterion Café owner, John Wren (1871-1953). Australian War Memorial

afé owner, (1871-1953). Var Memorial









Cesspit

Site Card

PRIMARY STUDENTS

1840 onwards

A cesspit was a place to tip rubbish and waste water. They were also used as drop toilets.

It was a deep hole in the ground, sometimes lined with bricks and covered with a lid. Shared cesspits filled up quickly, got really smelly and needed to be cleaned out often. Archaeologists always make time to investigate cesspits because lots of interesting things end up there, including undigested bits of food.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Gold Sovereign	1879	1	Ultra Rare
	Marbles	1850-1890	5	Rare
	Fruit Seeds	Various	10	Common



The cesspit excavated in the archaeological dig.



