

A TOURING EXHIBITION BY THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

BRICK BRICK

BUILD YOUR OWN CAPITAL

AN EDUCATORS GUIDE

A topographic map with brown contour lines and a blue line crossing the map diagonally. The map is the background for the text.

Educators

A dynamic and interactive education resource
will be located at Cairns Library
from 11 April to 09 July 2017.

For school and group bookings contact
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THE EXHIBITION

Brick by Brick – Build Your Own Capital is a travelling exhibition which introduces students to Canberra as their National Capital through an interactive activity where they are encouraged to think creatively about the future. In this programme, students are asked to design and build something that is important for them, that they would want in their capital city, using 30,000 LEGO™ bricks.

Brick by Brick is a self-contained education space with the stimulus questions/ suggestions printed on banners to assist students and teachers using the space. A large digitally printed carpet has the Griffin street plan overlaid onto the contours of Charles Scrivener's map of Canberra, including images of iconic Canberra structures. There is also a block of information and images of the types of structures in the National Capital (infrastructure, national institutions, government buildings etc).



Each work table has two workspaces with bins of LEGO™ and a base plate. There are two tables which can accommodate wheelchairs and the central table (again printed with contours from Scrivener's map) has different levels so that a wheelchair can be pushed in close as well.

A typical program would include the following:

- Assign students to tables
- With reference to the carpet map discuss the ways in which Canberra is the same / different to their home town/city
- Discuss what sorts of buildings/monuments/national institutions might be in a capital city and ask students to consider what they think is missing or how else Australians might be represented in their National Capital
- Students work alone or in groups to design and build what ever structure they think should be built next in Canberra
- The group then moves to the central table to discuss these designs, where they should be situated and why they are important for all Australians.



This program, whilst having links to both the History and Civics and Citizenship syllabus in the National Curriculum, most directly relates to one of the key General Capabilities in the National Curriculum: Critical and Creative Thinking.

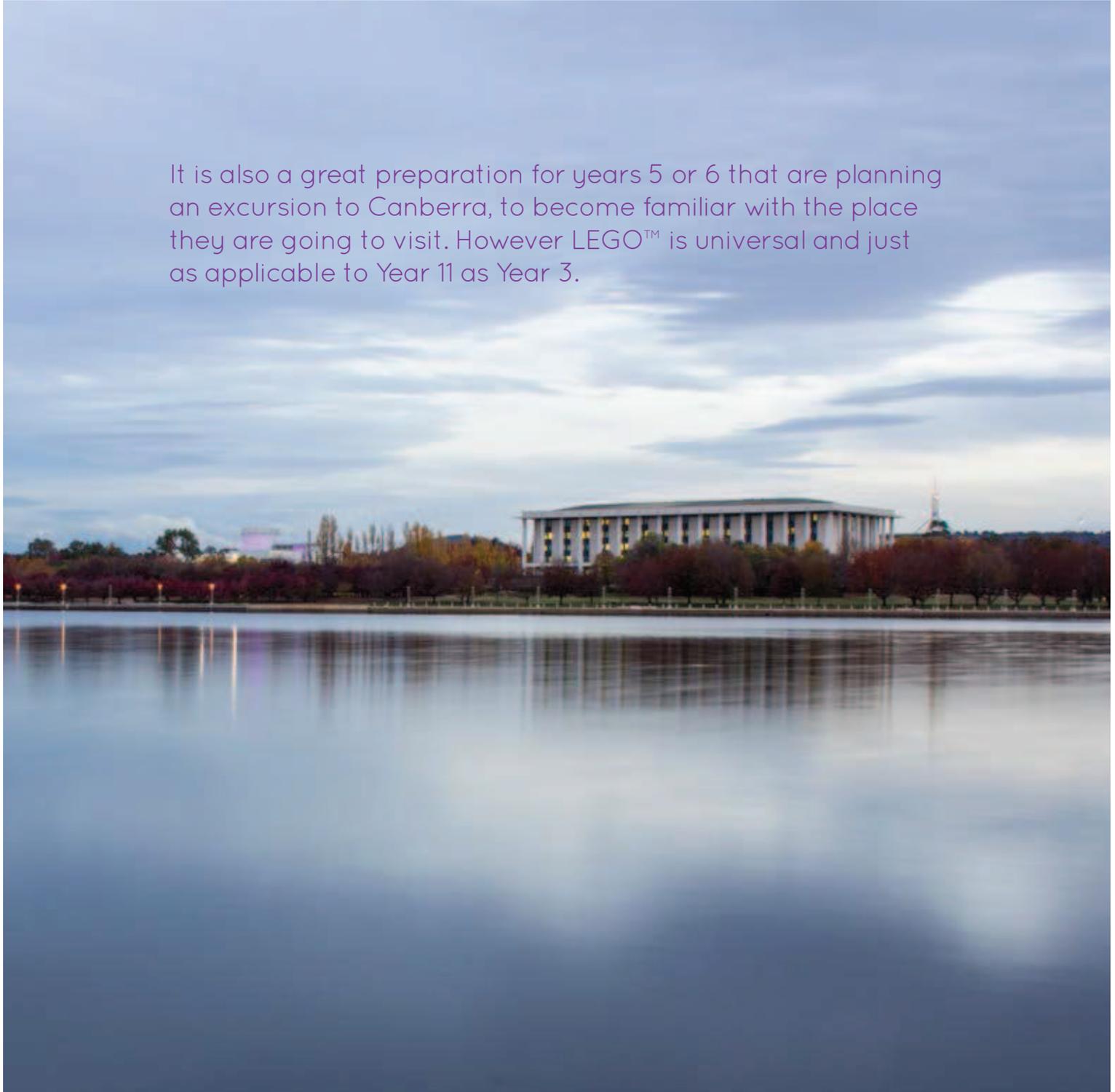
In the Australian Curriculum, students develop capability in critical and creative thinking as they learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. Critical and creative thinking are integral to activities that require students to think broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school.

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (MCEETYA 2008) recognises that critical and creative thinking are fundamental to students becoming successful learners. Thinking that is productive, purposeful and intentional is at the centre of effective learning. By applying a sequence of thinking skills, students develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the processes they can employ whenever they encounter problems, unfamiliar information and new ideas. In addition, the progressive development of knowledge about thinking and the practice of using thinking strategies can increase students' motivation for, and management of, their own learning. They become more confident and autonomous problem-solvers and thinkers.

Responding to the challenges of the twenty-first century – with its complex environmental, social and economic pressures – requires young people to be creative, innovative, enterprising and adaptable, with the motivation, confidence and skills to use critical and creative thinking purposefully.

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/generalcapabilities/critical-and-creative-thinking/introduction/introduction

It is also a great preparation for years 5 or 6 that are planning an excursion to Canberra, to become familiar with the place they are going to visit. However LEGO™ is universal and just as applicable to Year 11 as Year 3.





The National Capital Authority has online resources which support and enhance this program:

- **A Capital Investigation:**

www.ryebuck.com.au/staging/nce_project/v2/
includes teacher resources, interactive activities, role plays and investigations into what a city is and the special nature of a capital city.

- **A series of factsheets on the built environment**

of Canberra: www.nationalcapital.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=254:fact-sheets&catid=60:links-education&Itemid=248



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