

# AUSTRALIA'S WORLD HERITAGE PLACES

## Extension Lesson 1: Plagiarism

Years 7 - 10

**Objectives:**

- Students to understand what plagiarism is
- Why it is a problem and how to avoid it
- Students learn to reference correctly

**Topics covered:**

- Understanding plagiarism
- Understanding referencing

**Curriculum focus:**

Research skills development

**Time requirement:** 1-2 x 50 minutes

**Activities:**

Initiate class discussion around the following.

Definition of plagiarism: to take someone's ideas and/or words without adequate acknowledgement and pass them off as your own.

• **What does this mean?**

Taking someone's idea/theory/research and putting it in your own words without saying that it's someone else's idea.  
Copying words from the internet and putting them in your own work without saying where the words came from.  
Copying from the internet and passing it off as your own idea by changing a few words so it can't be found.  
Leaving it unclear as to whose words you've used by inadequately citing the intellectual owner of the words/ideas.

NB: There is a difference between plagiarism and inadequately or incorrectly citing sources (provided it is not deliberate)

• **Common Knowledge**

Common knowledge is an exception when it comes to plagiarism. Common knowledge is information which is known to a majority of people e.g. folklore, myths etc. Is it common knowledge? Ask if the majority of people would know this or something your readers already know.

• **Ask students to consider why it is important to cite references**

It is important to acknowledge intellectual ownership of an idea or theory.  
Imagine if a student came up with a great idea or theory and then read it in another student's work?  
How would it feel for someone else to get the credit for your idea?  
It is unethical to take something that does not belong to you and this includes someone's ideas.

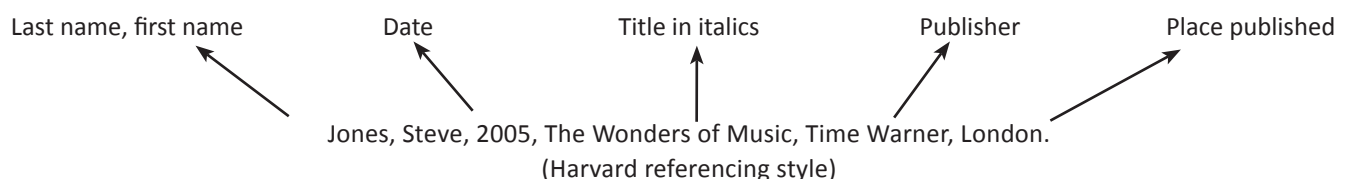
• **Ask students to consider how they can avoid plagiarism**

Students should always keep detailed records of all the sources they use in their research.  
For example: Keep a page with a list of all references. As quotes or pieces of information are added to the work, record all details including page numbers.

• **How do we adequately acknowledge someone's words or ideas?**

Students will need access to the library and the internet to complete the following activities.  
Students should access [www.dckclub.wikispaces.com/bibliog](http://www.dckclub.wikispaces.com/bibliog) for information on how to write a bibliography.

In pairs, ask students to write a bibliography which contains two books, two websites, two newspapers articles, one CD-ROM, one DVD/video. Students must copy this/paste this into their book. As they are writing the bibliography, they should highlight information and indicate what they are so they know what to do next time they write a bibliography.



- Students may need assistance in locating the information (show them in a book where to find the published date and on a website where to locate all the necessary information).

