**Investigating the Ancient Past**

**Syllabus Dot Points**

\*How historians and archaeologists investigate history, including excavation and archival research

\*The range of sources that can be used in an historical investigation, including archaeological and written sources

\*The methods and sources used to investigate at least ONE historical controversy or mystery that has challenged historians or archaeologists, such as an analysis of unidentified human remains (

\*The nature of the sources for ancient Australia and what they reveal about Australia's past in the ancient period, such as the use of resources

\*The importance of conserving the remains of the ancient past, including the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

**Suggested Site Studies include:**

* a museum visit
* an Aboriginal site (issues of access and permission need to be appropriate to the site selected)
* an archaeological site
* a local site of significance
* a heritage site
* a virtual historical/archaeological site

**Inquiry Questions**

* How do we learn about the ancient past?
* What is history?
* How do we find, select and interpret historical evidence?
* What can we learn from the past?

**Metalanguage List** Learn them and use them

1. primary source
2. secondary source
3. archaeology
4. historian
5. evidence
6. perspective
7. timeline
8. pre-history
9. history
10. heritage
11. The Dreaming
12. Artefact
13. Carbon dating
14. Relative dating
15. Absolute dating
16. DNA Analysis
17. Chronology
18. Hypothesis
19. Preservation
20. Fact

**Essential Questions**

1. What is history?
2. Describe and explain the historical approach to historical investigation taken by historians
3. Outline the main features of archaeology and the role of archaeologists
4. Describe the approach to historical investigation taken by archaeologists
5. An archaeologists job is better than that of a historian. Discuss
6. What are the terms and concepts relating to historical time?
7. What sources are used by archaeologists and historians in an historical investigation?
8. Who is Otzi and what do we know about him?
9. Describe a variety of sources for ancient Australia
10. Investigate what sources reveal about Australia’s ancient past
11. Identify ancient sites that have disappeared or have been protected and preserved
12. Identify methods of preserving and conserving archaeological and historical remains
13. Describe an Australian site which has preserved the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
14. Using a range of sources explain why it is important to preserve and conserve one specific site