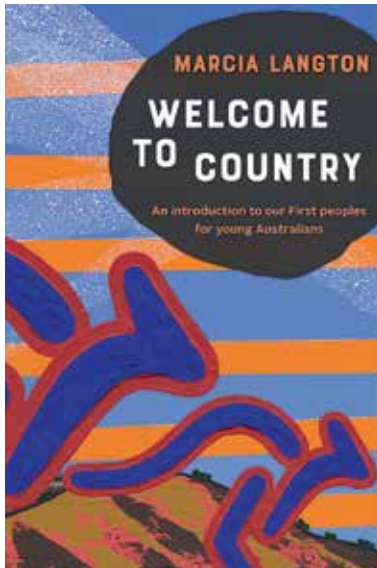


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## Welcome to Country (Youth Edition)

By Marcia Langton

Hardie Grant Travel

September 2019

Paperback, 225 pages

RRP: \$29.99

ISBN: 9781741176667

Reviewed by Eliza Lowes,  
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*Welcome To Country: An Introduction to our First Peoples for Young Australians*, by Marcia Langton, provides an introduction to Australia's First Peoples in an easily navigable yet concise and comprehensive text. The contents of the book touch on both historical topics and more recent and contemporary ideas and events.

I would definitely utilise this book in a classroom setting and would highly recommend it to other teachers. Langton not only writes in a way that is easily understandable, but also provides numerous resources that would greatly aid teachers with sufficiently explained content while allowing students to develop their knowledge independently.

A reference list gives teachers additional resources that will further assist their own knowledge and ability to teach the content, and further classroom resources for students.

The glossary is my favourite aspect of this book. It allows students to identify and acquire the vocabulary that they can use to understand and write about First Nations cultures and histories. Not all students have the ability to appropriately define words just by reading text, so this guarantees that students have a reliable source to find and understand word definitions.

*Welcome to Country* is an ideal classroom resource with multiple links to the Victorian Curriculum. In particular, the Level 7 and 8 curriculum asks teachers and students to explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and cultures, community, land, stories, beliefs, values and practices, warfare, death and funerary customs, and the importance of conserving cultural heritage. Langton touches on all of this in a way that is respectful and encouraging to students to learn

more. Langton also provides a First Nations perspective on Indigenous Australia, herself being a proud Yiman/Bidjara woman and one of Australia's most prominent First Nations voices.

Additionally, the Level 9 and 10 History Curriculum explores rights and freedoms of various minority groups, one being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. While this book could still be a useful reference and starting point for Levels 9 and 10, it will not provide older students with adequate information. The same can be said for VCE Australian History. However, the book is a fantastic and concise starting point for students of all levels to begin with, and from there to research further.

The only qualm I have with this book is that it would have been nice to see a few more sources used, especially secondary sources. This would have provided students with the chance to differentiate between a primary and secondary source and provide them with an opportunity to practise responding. I also wish this book had an activity book with questions and activities to go along with it. That being said, it does make it very easy for teachers to create their own activities and questions for students.

Overall, *Welcome to Country* is an ideal resource for the earlier years of History education, and a fantastic reference point for the higher levels. It has been written and formatted in a way that makes it suitable for younger students to navigate and retain knowledge. The glossary is something that students can and should refer to over their school years right through to VCE, and the additional resources provided are an easy and accessible way to encourage and aid further research for both teachers and students.