

# Be *Fierce* for *Fair*

MARY  
MACKILLOP  
*today*

## Class Activities Year 7 - 10

The activities below have been developed in line with the Australian Curriculum and focus on Mary MacKillop and the work of Mary MacKillop Today in Timor-Leste. You may wish to use all or some of these activities to deepen students' understanding of Mary MacKillop's Feast Day.

### Who is Saint Mary MacKillop?



**Teacher's Tip: You can either read this text out loud to your class or listen to the podcast linked below**

Mary Helen MacKillop was born in 1842 in Victoria to Scottish immigrant parents and grew up with seven brothers and sisters. At the age of twenty-four, she dedicated her life to God and took on the name "Mary of the Cross."

Mary was an ordinary woman with an extraordinary dream and a big heart. Her dream was to give the poorest families and most neglected children access to education and safe shelter by opening schools. With what little resources they had, Mary and Father Tenison Woods turned an old stable into a school in Penola, South Australia.

In 1866, Mary and Father Tenison worked together to set up the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites). This was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian.

Mary believed in the power of education to lift communities out of poverty.

When she saw injustice, she was fierce to act, so children wouldn't miss out on fair access to education. Mary taught everyone — regardless of gender, race, faith, or wealth — while serving with love and compassion. She and the Sisters of St Joseph went wherever the need was greatest. They gave up everything to live and teach amongst the people they served.

**Podcast: ABC's Fierce Girls: Mary MacKillop - the girl who became a saint (12 minutes)**

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/fierce-girls/mary-mackillop-the-girl-who-became-a-saint/11658006>



**Teacher's Tip: Use the questions below to generate discussion with the class**

1. What did Mary MacKillop do that was important?
2. Why does having access to good education matter?
3. How did Mary seek justice for others?
4. How can we all aspire to be more like Mary MacKillop in our daily lives?



# Student Worksheet

## Activity 1



Can you circle Timor-Leste on this map?

## Activity 2

Look up information about Timor-Leste on the website listed below to answer the following questions.

Website: <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/where-we-work/timor-leste/>

1. How many people live in Timor-Leste?

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2. When did Timor-Leste become independent? What is the story of their independence?

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3. What programs does Mary MacKillop Today have in Timor-Leste?

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# Mary MacKillop Today's work in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is a beautiful country and one of Australia's closest neighbours. But sadly, 42% of the population live in poverty and access to education is very limited particularly in rural and remote areas.

The Sisters of St Joseph have been working in the communities in Timor-Leste for over 30 years and Mary MacKillop Today continues that work now.



**Teacher's Tip: Look up information on the below website links and play the videos about Timor-Leste, then use the questions to generate discussions with the class.**

**Website: <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/who-we-are/mary-mackillops-story/>**

**Website: <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/mobile-learning-centre/>**

**Website: <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/tetun-storybooks/>**

**Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-l6StZtpRA>**

**Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5YVpZr7auY>**

1. How does the Mobile Learning Centre help children and teachers?
2. What access to education do children have in Timor-Leste? What access to education do you have? Why is education important to you and the children of Timor-Leste?
3. What access do teachers have to teaching resources and training in Timor-Leste? How would this assist the children they are teaching?
4. How is the Mobile Learning Centre helping with access to education for these children?
5. How can your grade or school help the work of Mobile Learning Centre? Could you organise a fundraising activity to help raise funds?
6. How is the Mobile Learning Centre inspired by the work of Mary MacKillop? What do you understand about the work of the Josephites (Sister of St Joseph) and Mary MacKillop Today?
7. How long have the Sisters of St Joseph been providing teaching resources to support students to learn and write in Tetun? Who do they collaborate with?
8. Why is it important for the students to learn Tetun?
9. How is disability and inclusion addressed in the resources? Discuss how this all started and who contributed to this important work.
10. What has been the outcome of this program and how has it helped students?
11. How can you organise a fundraiser to spread awareness and raise money to help children in Timor-Leste? Present a proposal to your class.





## Curriculum Links

The learning activities are broadly linked to the Australian Curriculum in the following areas:

### Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia

- Collaboration and engagement with the peoples of Asia support effective regional and global citizenship.
- Australians play a significant role in social, cultural, political and economic developments in the Asia region.

## General capabilities key ideas

### Sustainability

World views are formed by experiences at personal, local, national and global levels, and are linked to individual and community actions for sustainability.

### Intercultural Understanding

Intercultural understanding stimulates students' interest in the lives of others. It cultivates values and dispositions such as curiosity, care, empathy, reciprocity, respect and responsibility, open-mindedness and critical awareness, and supports new and positive intercultural behaviours.

### Personal and Social Capability

Students gain an understanding of the role of advocacy in contemporary society and build their capacity to critique societal constructs and forms of discrimination, such as gender inequality. In developing and acting with personal and social capability, students:

- appreciate diverse perspectives.
- contribute to civil society.
- understand relationships.

### Ethical Understanding

In developing and acting with ethical understanding, students:

- explore rights and responsibilities.
- consider points of view.

## Year 3-6 Australian Curriculum Content Descriptions

### Geography

Year 7: Investigating the extent to which people in their place are socially connected or socially isolated and its effect on liveability (ACHGK046)

### Civics and Citizenship

Year 7: The values and beliefs of religions practised in contemporary Australia, including Christianity (ACHCK06),

Year 8: How groups, such as religious and cultural groups, express their particular identities; and how this influences their perceptions of others and vice versa (ACHCK053),

Year 9: How and why individuals and groups, including religious groups, participate in and contribute to civic life (ACHCK079).

Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australian, regional and global contexts (ACHCS089)

Year 10: Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australian, regional and global contexts (ACHCS102)

### Government and Democracy

Year 10: The Australian Government's role and responsibilities at a global level, for example provision of foreign aid, peacekeeping, participation in international organisations and the United Nations (ACHCK091)

