

## Word of the Week

“Zephyr”

- Is a noun. Nouns are people, places or things. .
- Is pronounced: ZEFF-er
- Means: **1 a** : a breeze from the west; **b** : a gentle breeze; **2** : any of various lightweight fabrics and articles of clothing
- In a sentence: “There was not even a *zephyr* stirring; the dead noonday heat had even stilled the songs of the birds.” — [Mark Twain, \*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer\*, 1876](#)
- For more information, see [merriam-webster.com](#)

## Place of the Moment

### Mawson's Huts

[Antarctica](#)

**These abandoned huts still hold the remains of an early 20th century Australian researcher's work.**



Sitting on the edge of Cape Denison in Antarctica is a small group of huts that were built by Australian antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson in the early 20th century. However, they have been abandoned for decades, preserving much of the effects and decor of the original expedition.

Constructed between 1911-1914, the small research station is now known simply as the Mawson Huts. It stands as one of the last outposts left from the so-called Heroic Era of Antarctic Exploration, and the only one created by Australians. Mawson and his team of 17 men, the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, travelled to Commonwealth Bay to conduct experiments on a variety of subjects including continental drift, local wildlife, and glaciation.

Given the harsh climate, life in the huts was miserable. Blizzards and hurricane force winds were the norm, and communication was difficult despite a radio relay that was set up on a nearby island. Mawson would later write of the experience, saying, “Temperatures as low as -28 degrees F. (60 degrees below freezing-point) were experienced in hurricane winds, which blew at a velocity occasionally exceeding one hundred miles per hour. Still, air and low temperatures, or high winds and moderate temperatures, are well enough; but the combination of high winds and low temperatures is difficult to bear.”

When the expedition left the site, they left their huts in place and headed out. The site simply sat in the cold and wind for two decades. They were briefly used in the 1930s, then abandoned once again. A number of the huts succumbed to the harsh winter conditions, but the main hut and the adjoining magnetograph house are still intact, retaining some of the original equipment such as the iron stove.

While reaching Mawson’s Huts is not exactly easy, they remain there for any enterprising explorer interested in paying a visit. They are a protected historic site, so if the weather doesn’t destroy them, they should be there for some time to come.

“[EricGrundhauser](#).” “[Mawson’s Huts](#)” Atlas Obscura (web). Accessed 26 March, 2020.

## Nipper

More from the article Nipper found in [The Smithsonian](#):



“New information about existing fossils buttresses the idea that the earliest bats scampered around in the trees. [In 2013](#), paleontologists Kevin Padian and Kenneth Dial presented research at the annual Society of Vertebrate Paleontology meeting that noted some of the earliest bats had hindlimbs that flexed to the side, rather than aligning directly beneath the body. This arrangement is more consistent with climbing rock faces and trees than walking on the ground. Searching for more tree-living beasts will help connect the fossil dots.”

## Library Skill

In the library, we had been having a lot of conversations about genres of fiction. Remember, the “genre” is like the “flavor” - it describes what sort of made up story it will be. Our library uses 13 different genres to organize the books, and we’re going to take a close look into them.

This week, we will be looking at the **Historical Fiction** genre. HIST on the spine, red tape.

What are some key words you’d use to describe a Historical Fiction book? I might expect “World War Two” - what else can we add?

What are some examples of a Historical Fiction book you can think of?

Is this a genre you enjoy? Why or why not?

## Reading for Pleasure

I’m going to keep asking... What is a book you are really enjoying? What is one thing about that book that makes it so great?