

# People in Australia's Past

Stories & Activities



2nd Edition

Susan Boyer

# **People in Australia's Past**

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Second Edition

eBook

**Susan Boyer**

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People in Australia's Past - Audio CD (narration of the stories) ISBN 978 1 877074 47 9

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Acknowledgments and further reading, see page 153.

#### **Important cultural note:**

Readers of *People in Australia's Past* please be aware that this book contains names and images of deceased persons, which in some Indigenous Australian communities may offend cultural prohibitions.

#### **Teachers' note:**

'People in Australia's Past' has been researched and developed by an English language and literacy teacher with a passion for Australian history.

The stories in this book relate to history topics of the **Australian Curriculum**, mid-upper primary school levels. See content descriptors taken directly from the Curriculum on the adjacent page or go to [www.birrongbooks.com](http://www.birrongbooks.com) for more detailed Australian Curriculum links.

The language activities in this book are suitable for teaching the interrelated strands of **language, literature and literacy** as specified in the Australian Curriculum, English.

As an additional resource to literacy teaching, '**People in Australia's Past**' Audio CD contains **narration of the twenty stories**. The audio narration, used concurrently with the written text can be a useful tool for developing literacy skills at all ages.

The stories and language activities have been carefully designed by teacher and author Susan Boyer for teaching **English as an Additional Language**, for adults as well as younger learners.

## 'People in Australia's Past' - 2nd Edition

Today Australia is a culturally diverse society but in global terms we are a young nation. Our multicultural history spans only a few centuries whereas Aboriginal peoples have lived on the Australian continent for thousands of years. This book begins with their story.

Also included are stories of individuals who have shaped Australia's history. Some, like **Mary Reibey** and **James Ruse** arrived as convicts with immense difficulties to overcome. On the other hand, women like **Elizabeth Macarthur**, **Elizabeth Macquarie** and **Caroline Chisholm** came as free settlers, and seeing problems in society, set out to bring change and progress.

Other history-makers were native born Australians like **David Unaipon**, **Edith Cowan**, **John Flynn**, **Eddie Mabo** and **Charles Perkins** who saw injustice and devoted their time and energy to bring progress in the fields of health, education and law reform. **Edmund Barton**, Australia's first Prime Minister, was a tireless advocate for the development of Australia's Constitution. In this 2nd edition, I have added the important stories of **Oodgeroo Noonuccal** and **Vincent Lingiari** who advanced the rights of Aboriginal Australians.

Some Australians gained fame through their discoveries or abilities. **Douglas Mawson** was an explorer who collected valuable scientific information in Antarctica. **Charles Kingsford Smith** set world records in flying across Australia and around the globe. **Banjo Paterson** is remembered for his unique stories of life in the Australian bush and for his celebrated song: 'Waltzing Matilda'. **Dame Nellie Melba** was Australia's first superstar, world famous for her beautiful voice.

### Relevance to Australian Curriculum, English and History

As well as inspiring stories of people of diverse backgrounds, this resource provides material relating to the **Australian Curriculum, English and History**. For example, following each story are:

- topic related **vocabulary** activities involving matching words in the story to their meaning
- **comprehension** activities and varied **spelling** and **punctuation** activities
- **crosswords**, **map activities**, and **discussion** topics
- **models for writing information texts** (see biography template on page 121)

The stories relate to **History** topics of the **Australian Curriculum**, primary school levels:

**Year 4 Level Description: How people, places and environments interact, past and present**

Year 4 curriculum focuses on interactions between people, places and environments over time...

Year 4 Inquiry Question: What was life like for Aboriginal Peoples before the arrival of Europeans?

How have laws affected the lives of people, past and present?

**Year 5 Level Description: Australian communities - their past, present and possible futures**

Year 5 curriculum focuses on colonial Australia in the 1800s and the social, economic, political and environmental causes and effects of Australia's development...

Year 5 Inquiry Question: How have individuals and groups in the past and present contributed to the development of Australia?

**Year 6 Level Description: Australia in the past and present...**

Year 6 curriculum focuses on the social, economic and political development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900, and Australia's role within a diverse and interconnected world.

Students explore the events and developments that shaped Australia as a democratic nation and stable economy, and the experiences of the diverse groups who have contributed to and are/were affected by these events and developments...

Year 6 Inquiry Question: How have key figures, events and values shaped Australian society, its system of government and citizenship?

\*\* Language activities in this book are suitable for teaching **English as an Additional Language**.

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