

AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE

Discussion Topics & Activities

Discussion Question

1. List the names given to people in AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE i.e. Dreamtime Creatures, Convicts, Shearers, Swagmen, Diggers, Bushrangers.
 - a. Are these names still used today?
 - b. If so, where?
 - c. If not, why not?
 - d. Nowadays is there another name given to people who do the same or similar things?

2. Apart from those mentioned in the show (Diggers, Bush fire fighters, Surf Lifesavers) which people in Australia today still exemplify or display true Australian characteristics?

3. Some of the songs in AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE were around many years ago and sung around the campfire for an evenings entertainment. What would you do in the evening for entertainment without the T.V. Radio or Computer? This discussion can go on for some time, if you keep taking options away as they are suggested (what if there are no DVDs, What if there are no TVs etc).

The idea is to make students aware of all those things not available to children living in the eighteen hundreds. Take them back to a homestead a mile (one and a half kilometres) from the nearest neighbour, no electricity, no water on tap (so water drawn from a well or the creek). Remember that in summer kids would probably be playing outside until bedtime. Be mindful of prompting students to think of all the possible positives ie horse riding, fishing, tree houses.

4. Aboriginal customs maintained that only men could play the Didgeridoo.
 - a. Do you think this was appropriate?
 - b. After being a custom for thousands of years, should this change? Do you think that today girls should be able to play the didgeridoo if they want to?

5. Investigate when things were invented and draw a timeline. Below the line note when things were invented and above the line put parents, grand parents, great grand parents etc. to give students an idea of what their ancestors had and didn't have.

6. The Swaggie in "Waltzing Matilda" stole a sheep so he wouldn't starve. Do you think it's right for poor people to steal to survive?

The following rules for teachers are more for the amusement of teachers but I 'm sure the older grades would also find them fascinating.

Rules for teachers in the 1800's "Part of Historical display at Halls Gap Victoria"

1. Each day teacher will fill lamps and clean chimney before beginning work
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day's session
3. Pack your pens carefully
4. You may whittle the nibs to the individual taste of the children
5. After ten hours in school, you may spend the remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
6. Male teachers may take one evening per week for courting proposes or two evenings to attend church regularly
7. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
8. Every teacher should lay aside, from each pay, a goodly some for his benefit during his declining years, so that he will not become a burden to society.
9. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool halls or public halls or gets shaved in barber shops will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honestly.

Rules for female teachers 1915 "Part of Historical display at Halls Gap Victoria"

1. Will not marry during the term of your contract
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am unless attending a school function
4. You may not loiter down town in ice-cream parlours
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits with out the permission of the chair man of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or auto mobile with any man unless he is you father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colours
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair
- 10 You must wear at least two petticoats and your dresses must not be shorter than

two inches above the ankle.

11. To keep the school clean you must:

- a. Sweep the floor a least once daily
- b. Scrub the floor with hot soapy water at least once weekly
- c. Clean the blackboard at least once a day
- d. Start the fire at 7:00am so that the room will be warm by 8:00am.

Australian Folklore - Worksheet

Draw a line from the word to its meaning

JUMBUCK	The Best/Fastest Shearer in the Shed
RINGER/GUN SHEARER	A Wealthy Landowner or Shearer
ROUSEABOUT	A Sheep
SQUATTER	The Shearing Floor/where the sheep are shorn
BOARD	A Pair of Hand Shears (not machine operated)
GAFFER	A General Helper around the Shearing Shed
BLADES or B-BOWS	The Boss of the Shearing Shed

Answer the following Questions

Write the correct word next to the item on the Swaggie.

Billy Tuckerbag Hat Swag

1. What are each of these four items used for?

Billy

Tuckerbag.....

Hat

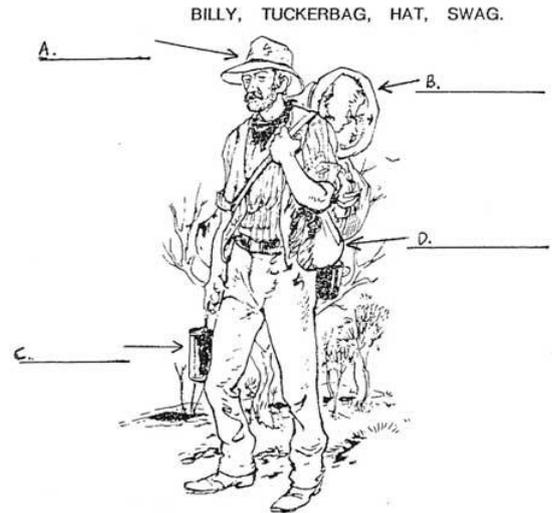
Swag

2. Where do you think this Swaggie might be going and where might he have been?

.....
.....
.....

3. What might he do for work?

.....



6. Could you live like a swaggie and survive with just these simple items?

Draw and decorate a didgeridoo - in the space below