

IU20 ■ Famous
Australians
Middle Primary



Blake's Topic Bank

Famous Australians

by **Kayleen Petzer**



Each integrated unit contains:

- 6 pages of teaching notes in an integrated teaching sequence
- 10 practical blackline masters
- National Profile outcomes
- A useful resource list

Famous Australians

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MIDDLE PRIMARY

Learning Area Focus Studies of Society and Environment

Topic Australia's development has been enhanced by the contributions of many notable people throughout its history. People have become famous in fields such as sport, exploration, the arts, entertainment, literature, politics, science and inventions. Many contributions to the world's development have originated in Australia. Colourful characters, infamous villains and people of many cultural backgrounds have all helped to shape the Australian identity.

National Profile Outcomes

Students will:

- **SOSE 3.1a** Interpret accounts of achievements of some famous Australians in other times.
- **SOSE 3.2** Create a timeline featuring famous Australians who have played an important role in the development of Australia.
- **SOSE 3.12** Describe ways in which innovations and enterprise have affected Australia.
- **SOSE 3.16** Frame questions and identify sources of information when involved with an interview.
- **SOSE 3.17** Present information, in the form of an interview, to elicit information about a famous Australian.
- **SOSE 4.1b** Describe the achievements of particular famous Australians.
- **English 3.8b** With teacher guidance, use strategies for identifying resources and finding information about famous Australians in factual texts.
- **English 3.12a** Experiment with strategies for planning, reviewing and proofreading when writing an information report on famous Australians.
- **Health and PE 3.13** Consider personal attributes and qualities that many famous Australians have.

Resources

Factual Books

Ann Atkinson, *The Dictionary of Famous Australians*, Allen & Unwin.

Australia's Heritage Series, Hamlyn House.

Australia Through Time, Random House.

Sue Curtis and Kathleen Phelps, *Famous Australians*, Golden Press.

Jann Johnson and Ron Johnson, *Pioneers All—Glimpses of Our Past 1788–1901*, Jacaranda Press.

Peter Luck, *This Fabulous Century*, Lansdowne Press.

Nic van Udtshoorn, *Famous Australians*, Bay Books.

SE Tottenham, *101 Great Australians*, National Book Distributors.

John Walsh, *The Explorers*, Socom Educational Resources.

Video

Cathy Miller and John Davis, *Australian History*, Classroom Video.

Web Site

ABC's BTN program site
<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/real.htm>

Famous Australians Teaching Notes

Famous names

The following list provides a starting point for names of famous people and their fields of endeavour.

Medicine

Victor Chang
Fred Hollows
Sir Howard Walter Florey
Sister Elizabeth Kenny

Pioneers

Elizabeth Macarthur
Nancy Bird
Mary McKillop
John Flynn
Caroline Chisholm
Edith Cowan
Sir Charles Kingsford Smith

War heroes

Nancy Wake
Edward 'Weary' Dunlop

Entertainers

Ruth Cracknell
Barry Humphries
Dame Joan Sutherland
Nellie Melba
Bee Gees
Olivia Newton-John
Slim Dusty
Mandawuy Yunupingu

Art

Jenny Kee
Pro Hart
Albert Namatjira
Brett Whiteley

Authors

Miles Franklin
Henry Lawson
Banjo Paterson
Patrick White
Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker)
Colin Thiele
Colleen McCullough
Dorothea Mackellar
Norman Lindsay
May Gibbs
Robin Klein

Politicians

Gough Whitlam
Robert Menzies
John Curtin
Neville Bonner
Malcolm Fraser

Business figures

Janet Holmes à Court
R M Williams
Kerry Packer
Sir Albert Victor Jennings
John Laws
Rene Rivkin

Social Justice

Enid Lyons
Eddie Mabo
Pat O'Shane
Reverend Peter Hollingworth

Sport

Sir Donald Bradman
Betty Cuthbert
Kieren Perkins
Evonne Goolagong Cawley
Dawn Fraser
Shane Gould
Herb Elliott
Marjorie Jackson
Shirley Strickland
Sir Jack Brabham
Alan Jones
John Newcombe
Cliff Young
Peter Brock
Dennis Lillee
Grant Hackett
Ian Thorpe
Deahanne McIntyre (Paraplegic)
Murray Rose



Defining fame

Ask students to write their own definition for what they think constitutes fame. Split the class into discussion groups to compare definitions. Ask groups to combine ideas and rewrite them to make a single definition that all group members agree with. Have each group report their definition to the class. Discuss the differences, if any, between them. Consult a dictionary and read the definition to the class and compare it to those written by students. Display the definitions for future reference.

Brainstorm

With students, brainstorm names of famous Australians. Accept all names that students put forward. Then discuss any names that students feel don't belong on the list. Invite the student who put the name forward to justify its inclusion in accordance with the definitions previously developed. Add any names that are important to include. Ensure that local figures and legends are included and perhaps animals, such as Phar Lap and the 'Dog on the Tuckerbox'.

Classify

Categorise the people on the list in terms of the area of their field of endeavour, for example business, entertainment, the arts, science, medicine, war hero, political, infamous, inventor, pioneer, explorer, social justice and sport. Define and discuss the term 'infamous'. Ask students to think what sort of characters would be included on this list (e.g. the bushrangers Ben Hall, Thunderbolt, Ned Kelly, Captain Moonlight, and robbers such as Ronald Biggs).

Survey

Ask students to survey family members to find out which Australians they consider to be famous. Come together as a class to compile all findings. Compare it with the list brainstormed by students in an earlier activity. Identify people on the family members' list who students haven't heard of. Encourage students to use factual books and the Internet, if available, to find the area of endeavour of these people. Have students use this information to complete **BLM 1**.

Scrapbook

Ask students to collect articles about current famous Australians from newspapers and magazines. Have them glue the articles into a class scrapbook. This can be reviewed at the end of the unit.

Matrix

Explain how a matrix provides a concise summary of information. For this activity you might like to enlarge **BLM 2**. Provide each student with a copy. Brainstorm possible headings for the columns (e.g. courage, personality, talent, perseverance, intelligence, appearance, etc) and ask each student to decide on the headings they would like to use. Have them record their headings on the matrix. Explain that when they are researching famous people, they might come across other qualities. These can be added to the matrix. Divide the class into small groups and, to ensure a wide variety of people are listed, allocate each group a field of endeavour to research. Students should read information about as many of the people listed in the category as possible. Use the matrix to summarise the qualities of each person. Have groups report back to the class and detail their findings. Discuss any additional columns students added to the matrix. Display the matrixes around the room as these will be useful for students to refer to as the unit progresses.

Role models

Generalise the important qualities and achievements that make the identified people famous. Ask students if they have heard of the term 'role model'. Explain that famous people can act as role models for young Australians. With students, discuss the famous Australians they think are good role models. Ask whether the behaviour of famous people is always acceptable. Give examples of sports people losing their temper – fights on football fields, etc. Discuss the effect this can have on people who see those people as role models.

Timeline

Refer to the class lists and the matrix and, with students, discuss those people that have played a significant part in Australia's development. As a class, create a timeline to show the impact famous Australians have had on the development of the country.



Local area

Find out if there are any famous Australians buried in the local cemetery, or a cemetery near the school. If there are, have students find information about this person, or people. Once students have some background knowledge about them, go on an excursion to the cemetery. Locate the headstones, read the inscriptions and discuss whether or not they mention their fame or achievements. When you return to your classroom, have students write a different inscription for the headstone.

Explorers

Mapping

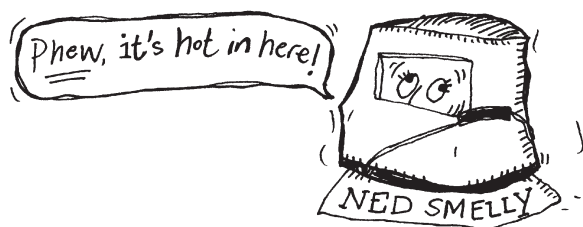
Have students research famous Australian explorers and ask them to complete **BLM 3**. Enlarge a map of Australia and place it on the board or a wall. Encourage students to mark the journey of a famous explorer they researched. The journey could be marked with coloured cotton secured using pins. Have students attach a label stating why these people are famous.

Interviews

Place students in small groups and have each group choose an explorer. Explain that one person in the group has to pretend they are that explorer, and that they have just returned from their expedition. The other members of the group have to conduct an oral interview with the explorer. Allow time for students to research the expedition and to rehearse the interview before presenting it to class members. Suggest to students that they might like to wear appropriate dress-up clothes for the presentation.

Board games

Discuss with students the problems that explorers might have faced. What qualities did these people have to possess to overcome these difficulties? Invite students to design a board game that includes some of the difficulties and successes of the explorers, for example, 'Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth crossed the Blue Mountains and cleared the path, move forward four paces'.



Inventors

Australia has one of the highest number of inventors in proportion to our population in the world. Some of our more famous inventions are the Hills hoist and the rotary lawn mower. Have students research to complete the table on **BLM 4**. Use the third column to include the reason for the invention or to mention any special circumstances surrounding the invention, for example the pavlova was invented by Bert Sachse in 1935 and named after Anna Pavlova who was a guest in the Perth Esplanade Hotel at the time. Use newspapers to study the style of headlines and the language used in them. Ask students to write headlines to herald the inventions of the products listed on **BLM 4**.

Research

Encourage students to choose an Australian who is famous because of their invention. Try to ensure that there is a spread across different areas such as farming, medicine, industrial and household products. After revising the structure and features of an information report, ask students to write an information report based on their research. Compile published copies into a class book on famous Australian inventors.

Banknotes

Since the introduction of decimal currency, Australian banknotes have featured profiles of famous Australians. Explain to students that the current notes have recently replaced paper notes. You might like to mention that the old paper notes used to include one and two dollar notes. These have since been replaced by coins. Ask students to complete **BLM 5** to find out more about the people on the old paper banknotes. For homework, ask students to examine some of the new banknotes. Have students investigate the famous people listed on the new notes and to compare their fields of endeavour with those on the old notes.

Awards and honours

Each year, many Australians are honoured for their achievements by being awarded special prizes. Ask students to research and to name specific awards and the field they are designed for (e.g. Archibald Prize – art; Nobel prize – economics, peace, etc; Brownlow Medal – AFL, Businesswoman of the Year – business, etc.) Brainstorm some of these awards and list them on chart paper. Ask students to complete **BLM 6**.

Author studies

Obtain some of the books written by Australian authors and illustrators that have won awards (see Resources). Encourage students to set up a display of these books (this could be combined with Book Week activities) before completing an author or illustrator study. Information might include:

- the name of the author or the illustrator
- name of the award won
- the year it was won
- the name of the book
- the plot (if the award winner was the author)
- the style of the illustrations (if the award winner was the illustrator)
- other work they have done
- other awards won (if any)
- what the students likes/dislikes about the book
- whether they consider the author or illustrator to be famous.

Nobel prize

The Nobel prize is an international award named after Alfred Bernhard Nobel. Nobel created a fortune from the manufacture of explosives. When he died he left much of his fortune to be awarded for advancements in the fields of physiology, medicine, chemistry, physics, economics, science, literature and for promoting world peace. Have students construct a chart detailing Australians who have won Nobel prizes.

Australia Day honours

Explain to students that Order of Australia awards are announced each year on Australia Day. Australians who have made outstanding contributions in their field are presented with medals. Decorations for bravery are also awarded at this ceremony. Ask the school librarian to find the list of award recipients for this year. Discuss with students why each person received the award. Encourage students to design a poster promoting a person that they believe should win an award next year. Explain to students that there are many people in the community who make outstanding contributions to society, yet they are rarely given awards, for example those people who work for welfare groups such as the Salvation Army.

Australian of the Year Award

Australian of the Year Award and the Young Australian of the Year Award are presented each year to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Australian society. The National Australia Day Committee carefully considers nominations before deciding on a winner. With students, study the list of recipients of the award and discuss the reasons why they might have won. Do they come from a variety of different areas of work? Ask students to identify the recipients who have also won a Nobel prize. Discuss with students characteristics that make these people more outstanding than other Australians. Place students into groups and ask them to prepare a list of criteria that could be used to judge future Australians of the year. Have each group appoint a spokesperson to read their criteria to class members. Use these to generate a class discussion about the difficulties of choosing the winner.

Hall of fame

Many fields of endeavour have constructed a hall of fame to honour people who are outstanding in that field, for example sporting people are honoured in a sporting hall of fame. Have students use **BLM 7** to construct their own hall of fame for an area of their particular interest. Ask students to justify the inclusion of the people on their list.

Postage stamps

Australia Post often releases special sets of stamps to commemorate events and to celebrate special fields of endeavour. Postage stamp books show pictures of those previously released, for example the famous cricketer series. Ask students to choose a field in which many Australians have become famous, e.g. music, sport. Ask students to use **BLM 8** to design a set of postage stamps to commemorate a series of famous Australians.

Monuments and memorials

Throughout Australia there are many sites that are designed to celebrate famous Australians. Brainstorm a list of monuments and mark them on a map. Encourage students to include early explorers, war memorials and specific icons such as the dog on the tuckerbox, Simpson and his donkey and the Dorothea Mackellar memorial.

Street names

Streets are sometimes named after famous people to commemorate their contributions to Australia. Obtain a map of the Homebush Bay Olympic site and study the names of the streets within the area. Encourage students to make generalisations on their findings. Use street directories to find suburbs that name streets after a particular group of famous Australians, for example prime ministers, governors, sports people, etc. With students, discuss the streets in your own town or suburb. Are there any streets named after famous people?

Infamous Australians

Bushrangers

Although bushrangers were criminals, many have become famous and are even considered folk heroes by some. Provide students with resources so they can read about some of the more well-known bushrangers. List reasons why people did or did not like bushrangers. Have students complete **BLM 9**.

Discuss with students reasons why bushrangers chose a life of crime.

I'm famous!

Encourage students to pretend that they are famous. Have them sit quietly to consider:

- which field of endeavour they would like to be famous in
- what they have done to become famous
- if fame has changed their lives and, if it has, in what ways.

Ask students to draft, revise and write a recount about how and why they have become famous. Remind students that recounts usually begin with an orientation (introducing the setting and the characters) followed by a series of events written in the order in which they occurred. Recounts should be written in the past tense as the events have already occurred.

Consolidating Activities

Who am I?

Ask students to choose any famous person that they have learnt about and to write clues to their identity. Ensure the clues start off with a general statement and gradually become more specific.

Tell students to set the number of clues at approximately seven and aim for someone to guess it at about clue six. Model the one below to the class and encourage students to try and guess who the person is. Have students write their own. These could be published on A4 paper and displayed with a flap covering the answer.

Who am I?

I was born in Western Australia in 1949.

I am a famous sportsperson.

I am listed in the Australian sporting hall of fame.

I am now a commentator for the sport I used to play.

I played cricket for Australia.

I was a fast bowler and became Australia's greatest wicket taker.

My first name is Dennis.

Review

Encourage students to reread the definition of fame written at the start of the unit. Ask them if they still agree with what they have written. The definition can be modified if necessary. Refer to the original class and survey lists of famous people and ask students if anyone should be removed or added to the list. Compile information gathered throughout the unit onto a database, preferably a computer database, and have students practise selecting fields to see common links between famous Australians.

Crossword

Ask students to use their knowledge of famous Australians to complete the crossword puzzle on **BLM 10**. (The answers are: *Across* – Fred, Phar Lap, Mabo, Cuthbert, real, O'Shane, Cowan, art, Dusty, Hart, Yothu, runner, Victor; *Down* – cricket, Greenway, Barton, Florey, Dunlop, pot, Macarthur, actor, Don, Ned.)

Autobiography

Have students choose a famous Australian they have studied throughout the unit of work. Encourage them to use the Internet to download any further information required about that person. Have students assume the role of that person and write an autobiography. This can be presented, orally, to the class. You may like to videotape the presentations.



BLM 1

Name: Date:

Famous Australians

Research as many famous Australians as you can. Write their names on the chart and record the reason why they are famous



Name **Famous because...**

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.....



Name: Date:

Famous qualities

Area of endeavour:

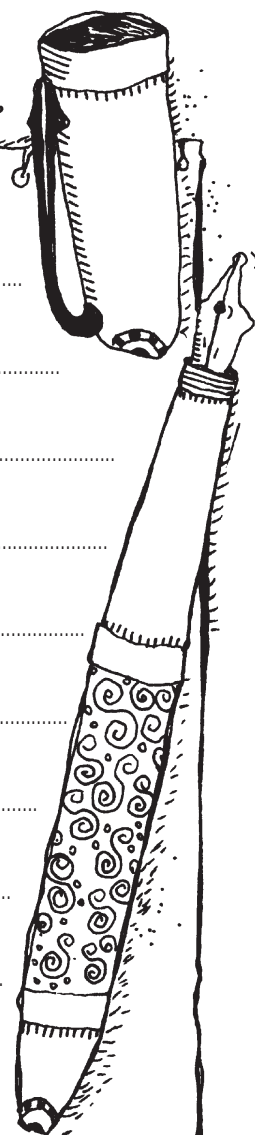
On the top of each column write some of the qualities it takes to be famous. Name the famous Australians from the area of endeavour (or category) you have been allocated and place a tick in the box under the qualities that person displays.

Name



Expedition record

Why this person (or these people) are famous:





Australian inventors

Write an eye-catching headline about three of the inventors or inventions.

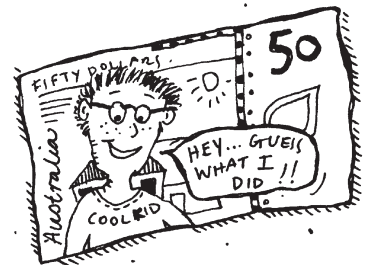




Name: Date:

Australian banknotes

The old Australian paper notes featured the following people. Find out what they are famous for.



\$2.00 John Macarthur

.....

\$2.00 William Farrer

.....

\$5.00 Sir Joseph Banks

.....

\$5.00 Caroline Chisholm

.....

\$10.00 Francis Greenway

.....

\$10.00 Henry Lawson

.....

\$20.00 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith

.....

\$20.00 Lawrence Hargreave

.....

\$50.00 Howard Walter Florey

.....

\$50.00 Sir Ian Clunies Ross

.....

\$100.00 Sir Douglas Mawson

.....

\$100.00 John Tebbutt

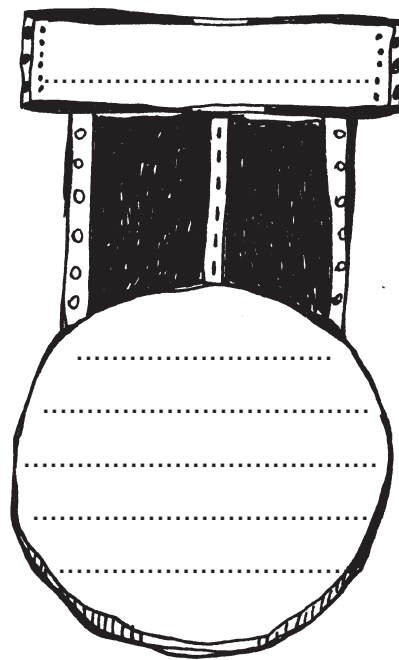
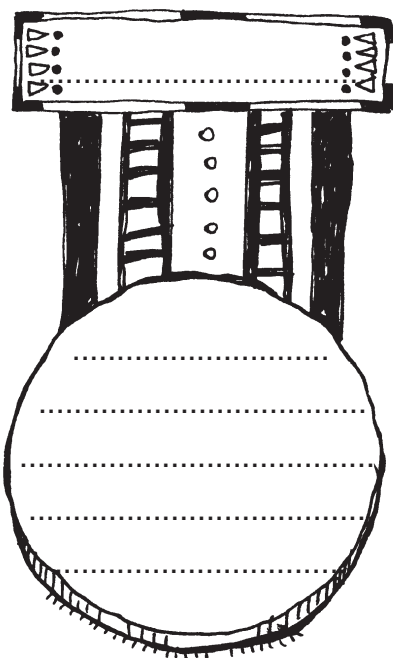
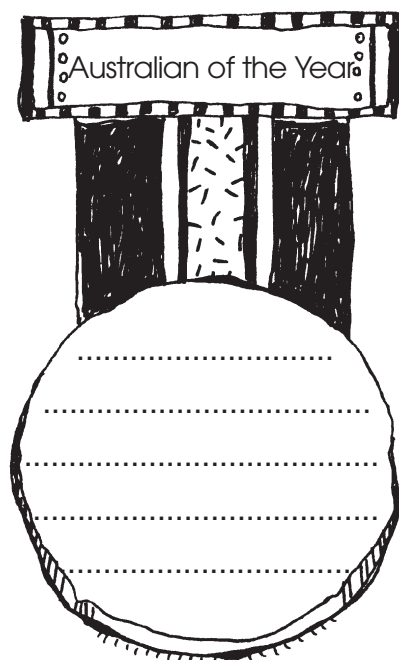
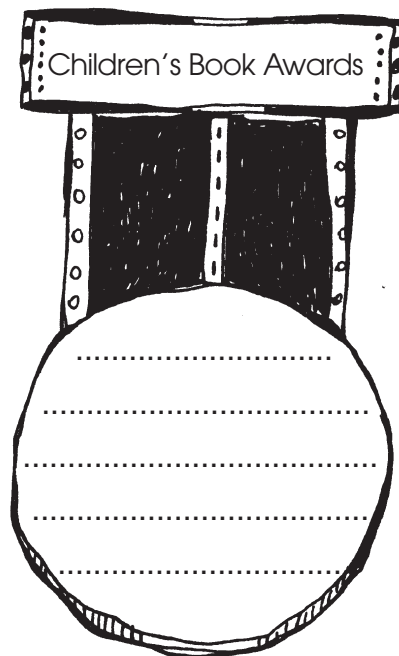
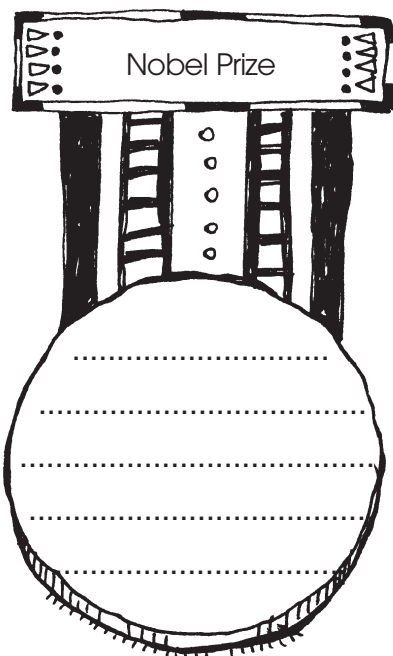
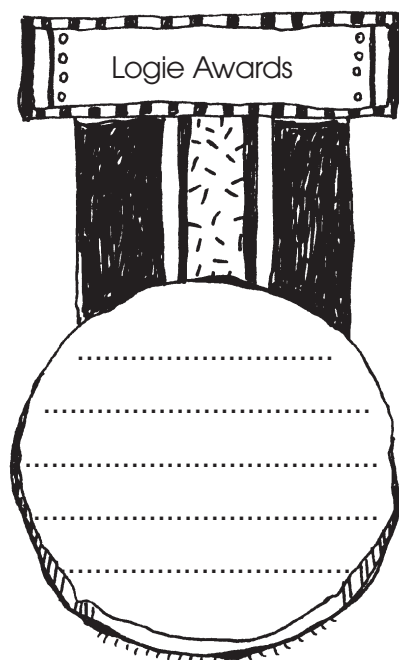
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Name: Date:

And the winner is...

Find which famous Australians won these awards. Choose two other awards that you think are important and acknowledge them (and the winners) in the two empty medals.





Name: Date:

the
Hall of Fame

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I have included these people because:.....

.....

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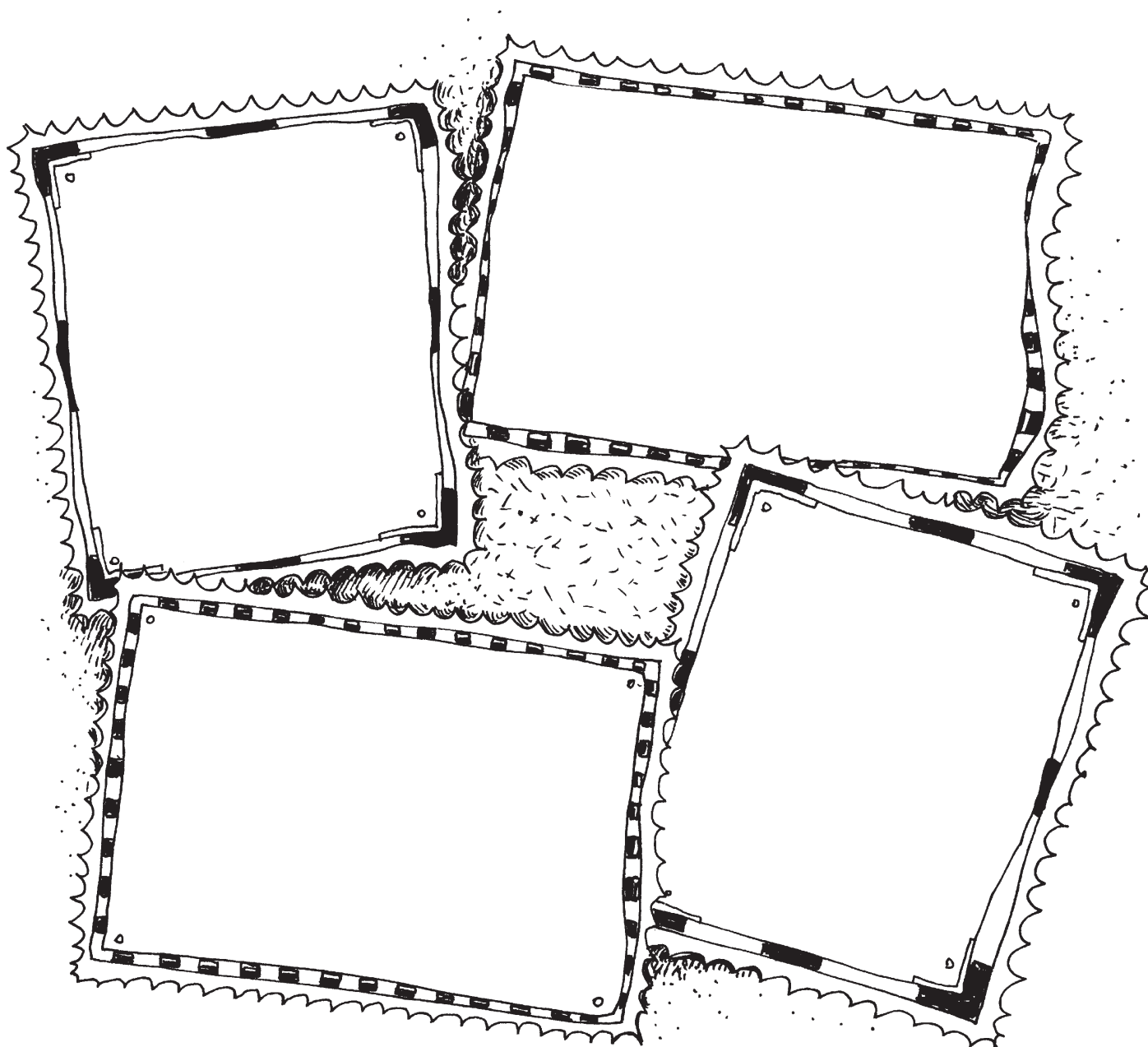
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Name: Date:

Stamp of approval!

Choose Australians from a particular field of endeavour and draw them on the stamps.

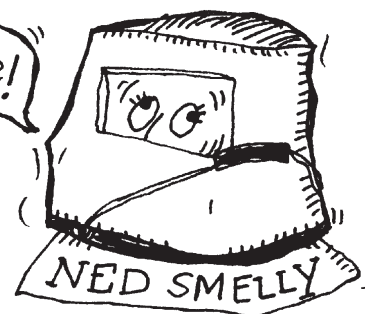




Name: Date:

Bushrangers

Phew, it's hot in here!



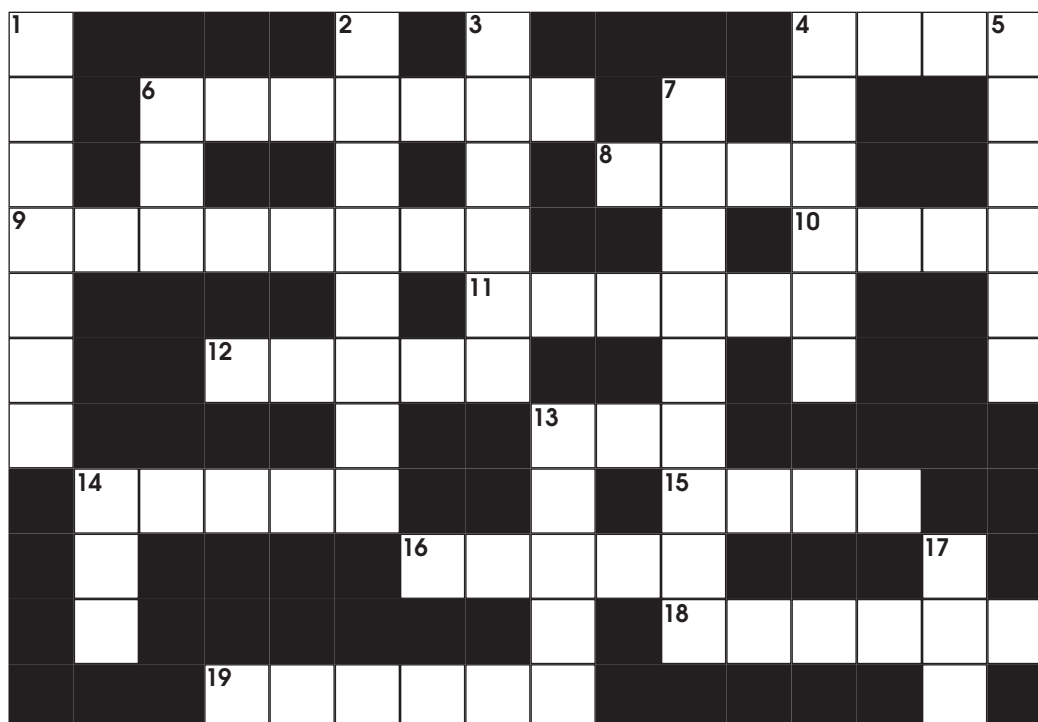
Research bushrangers and fill in the details.

Name	Date of birth	Town/ Area	Reasons for fame
Ned Kelly			
Dan Morgan			
Captain Moonlite			
Ben Hall			
Captain Thunderbolt			
Wild Colonial Boy			



Name: Date:

Famous Australians



Across

- 4 Eye specialist ____ Hollows.
- 6 A Melbourne Cup winner (4,3).
- 8 A famous Aboriginal person, Eddie _____.
- 9 Golden girl sprinter Betty _____.
- 10 L J Hooker started a business in ____ estate.
- 11 Leading NSW magistrate, Pat _____.
- 12 First female politician (also featured on the \$50 note), Edith _____.
- 13 Albert Namatjira is famous for his ____.
- 14 Country music singer, Slim _____.
- 15 Artist, Pro _____.
- 16 Mandawuy Yunupingu is the lead singer in the band _____ Yindi.
- 18 Cathy Freeman is a champion _____.
- 19 Heart surgeon, _____ Chang.

Down

- 1 Dennis Lillee is famous in the game of _____.
- 2 A famous convict architect (8).
- 3 Banjo Paterson's real name is Andrew _____ Paterson.
- 4 Scientist and Nobel prize winner for his part in penicillin treatment.
- 5 War surgeon 'Weary' _____.
- 6 This famous book is called Snuggle ____ and Cuddlepie.
- 7 Pioneers of the wool industry are John and Elizabeth _____.
- 13 Mel Gibson is an Australian _____.
- 14 Famous cricketer, ____ Bradman.
- 17 Bushranger, ____ Kelly.