

Grade 5 HASS
Australian History

Pioneer Women

Truganini

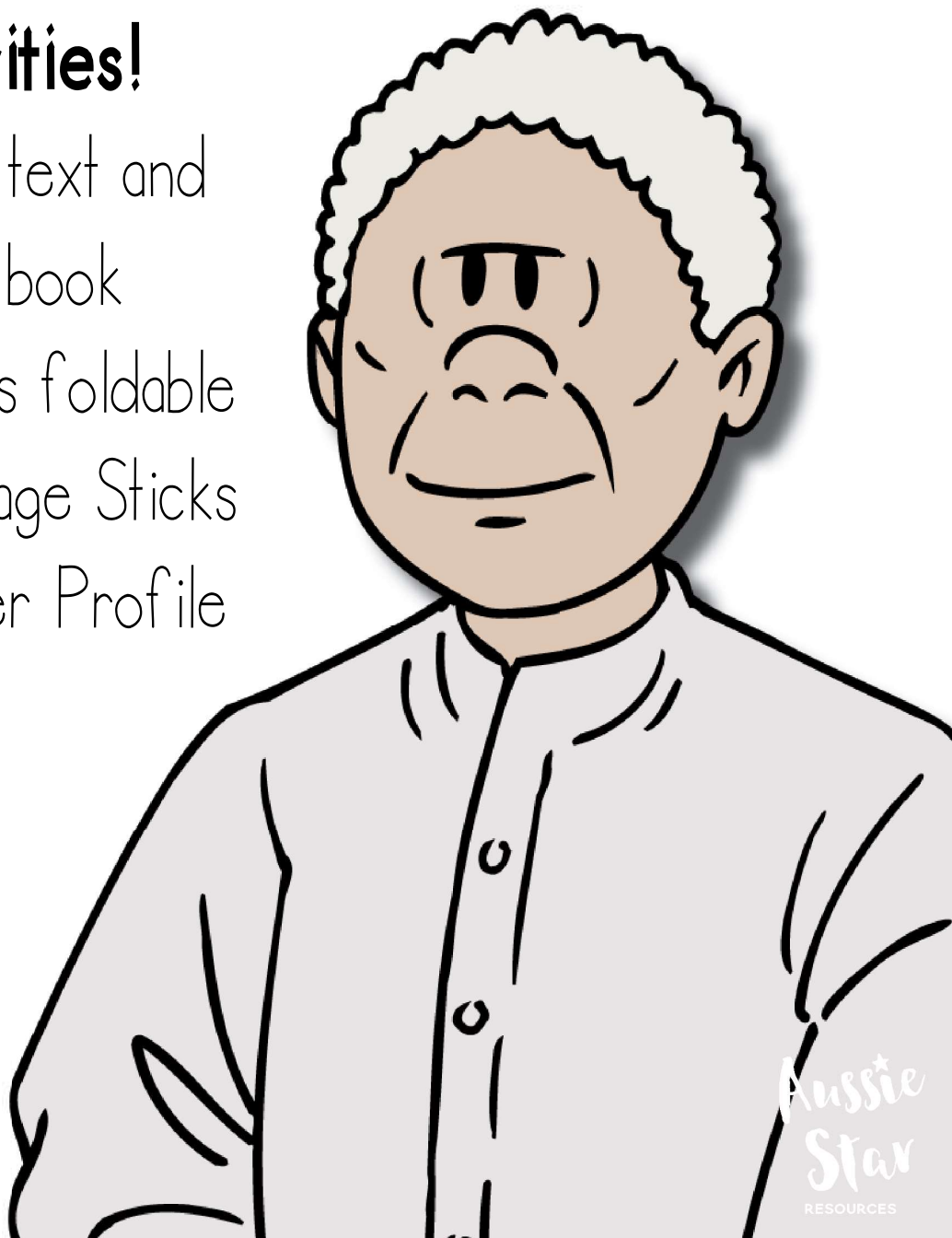
4 fun activities!

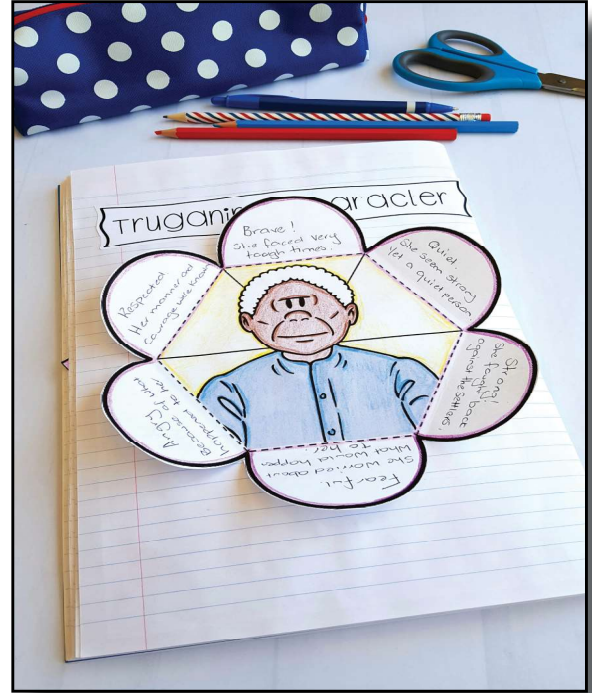
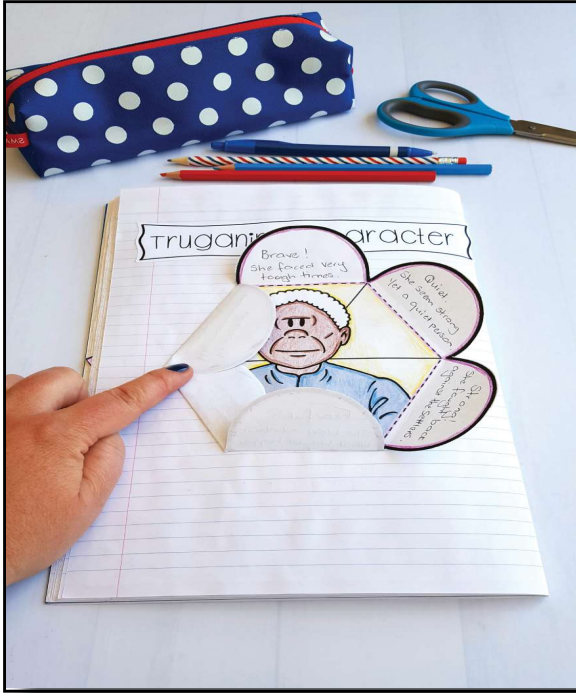
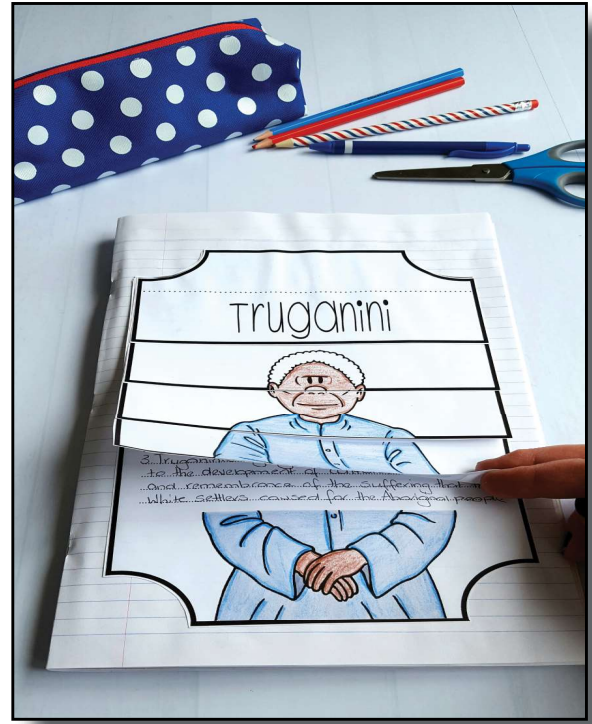
Comprehension text and
question flip book

Character analysis foldable

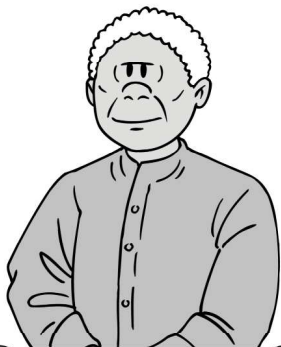
Vocabulary Message Sticks

Australian Pioneer Profile





Australia's Female Pioneers



The class were excited and a buzz of conversation turned through the class. It was History class and Miss Townsend had arranged a special treat. She fiddled with the knobs and dials of the big expensive machine and turned to the class. "Class, today we will be doing something a little unusual. We have Kirra Smith here who is a linguist and expert on the last language of Tasmanian Aborigines. Kirra can speak Palawa kani Nueny which is a reconstruction of the last Tasmanian Aboriginal language. Kirra will be interpreting for our visitor from the mid-1800s Truganini. Please keep your questions related to her life, do not mention her death, and class - no mobile phones!"

Miss Townsend turned the dial and the time machine whirled into life. A dazzling beam of white light appeared and a woman stepped from the light. She wore a plain colonial style dress and bonnet and stared at the class with dark eyes. Kirra spoke to the woman and after a brief exchange, she turned to the class and said, "Warm greetings to such lovely children. What would you like to know?"

Liam put up his hand and asked, "Why are you dressed like that? I thought Aboriginal people wore furs and hunted with spears?"

Kirra relayed the question and Truganini answered. She looked sad when Kirra replied, "Truganini remembers a time when she did hunt and did not wear white man's clothing. That was back in her youth, after 1812 when she was born on Bruny Island. She lived free with her people until the white men came to colonise Van Diemen's Land. After they came Truganini had to wear white man's clothes and live white man's ways for the rest of her life."

"I thought all Tasmanian Aborigines were killed," Ruby said quietly.

Kirra and Truganini spoke to each other. Kirra answered, "They were. Truganini watched her own family die at the hands of colonial violence. Her father, mother, sisters and niece were all killed."



the 1830s who thought it would be more humane to resettle the Aboriginal survivors somewhere else."

"But it didn't work did it?" Ruby said.

Truganini looked down at the ground and gritted her teeth. Kirra shook her head. "Truganini and her husband Woornady went along with the white man's plan. They resettled on Flinders Island and watched all of their friends and fellows die of malnutrition, influenza or exposure."

"They should have fought back!" Liam exclaimed.

Kirra translated and Truganini's dark eyes flashed. She spoke rapidly and Kirra translated, "They did fight back. But it did no good. Some were hanged for their efforts and the others were moved to another settlement in Oyster Bay near Hobart. Truganini's own husband did not survive to be resettled."

"So sad," Ruby said softly.

Kirra nodded. "And, to Truganini, the worst horror was knowing that even in death she wouldn't be free. White men were fascinated by Tasmanian Aborigines and she feared her body would be kept and examined."

Miss Townsend nodded and said, "Thank you Kirra and Truganini. We have run out of time unfortunately. Kirra, please pass on our thanks to Truganini for coming to share her story."

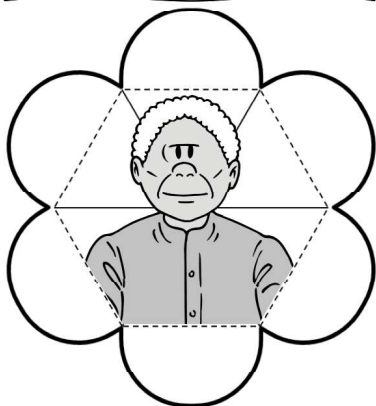
Kirra spoke to Truganini who nodded to Miss Townsend and the class. She disappeared back into the time machine and vanished in a beam of bright white light.

Miss Townsend turned to the class and said, "Bonus points for anyone who can tell me the end of Truganini's story."

Ruby raised her hand and said, "Truganini died in the home of her guardians in 1876 and her fears came true. Her body was put on display at a museum."

Miss Townsend nodded. "Correct. Truganini's remains were displayed in the Tasmanian Museum until 1917. Her remains weren't returned to her people for proper repatriation until over a hundred years after her death. A sad legacy for a brave woman."

Truganini's character



Cut carefully around each frame. Glue the largest frame into your book entirely and then layer the other pieces from largest to smallest.

Discuss Truganini's story with a friend. What can we learn from her life about colonial Australia and the treatment of Aboriginal people? Record your answers and provide explanations for each one.



Truganini

What happened when George Augustus Robinson moved the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to Flinders Island?

What was Truganini's worst fear?



What happened to Truganini after her death?

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Truganini's Message

In Australia, Aboriginal people had more than 200 different languages but no form of written language! Communication between the different groups was usually done by using a message stick. Each stick was intricately carved and it was used to help the person carrying it remember the message. They were also used as proof that the message was real. Using message sticks meant that complicated or long messages could be communicated between people within different groups.

Choose four words from Truganini's story that you don't understand. Use the code below to write the word on the top flap of the message sticks then use your dictionary to find the definition for each word and write it on the bottom message stick. Glue the top flap on top of the definition as shown in the instructions below.



Practise your code breaking.

Use the code to answer the question: What language did Truganini speak?



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Truganini's Message

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Credits

