

Children In History

Worksheet 4

Secret Journey

Research Reflect Report

RESEARCH: Individual activity

Use the Background Information and read the sections on Pioneers, Riverboat Era, Paddlesteamers and The story and real history. Make very brief notes on :

Why the paddlesteamers became the most popular means of transporting goods in the last half of the nineteenth century.

The materials used in building river boats.

The work of the crew.

Things that led to the decline of the riverboat trade.



REFLECT: Small group or whole class discussion.

You do not need to write anything for this section, but you are to use the information you found in your research in discussing these questions.

What were the main dangers faced by the crews of paddlesteamers?

At the height of their popularity there were between 200 and 300 paddlesteamers on the river. In what way were they a threat to the environment?

In what way did paddlesteamers provide a means of communication for the settlers living along the Murray River?

What do you think happened to the many paddlesteamers when they were no longer profitable to use on the river?

REPORT: Individual activity: Creating Blank Verse.

1. Consider the rise and decline of the paddlesteamers. Write one or two sentences telling how these once powerful and important Kings of the River became unwanted and neglected. Some were even left to rot in the Murray.
2. Polish your sentences. Rewrite them several times. You may change the order of words or omit words to give a better effect. Finally break the sentences into shorter lines to form Blank Verse.

Look at this example:

Original sentence: The old home stood neglected and abandoned. It looked unloved as if it were searching for its past.

Blank Verse: The old home stood
Abandoned and neglected.
Its darkened windows
Like unseeing eyes.
Alone and unloved
It searched for those
Who once had filled its rooms
With noisy laughter.