

YEAR 5 HISTORY: Learning sequence 4

Sikh and Indian Australians



**TEACHER RESOURCE 2 - RESEARCH TASK-
SHOWCASING NON-EUROPEAN COLONISTS**

HTAWA



The experiences and contributions of Indian and other non-European colonists have been at times invisible from the “white” version of Australian history. Students will now have the opportunity to explore and showcase their own research on these lesser known colonists. Students are to investigate the contribution, aims of and issues facing one of the following groups in the Australian colonies, especially the Swan River colony. They are also to comment on what they see as the significance (importance) of their chosen group on the development of Australia as a whole during the colonial era.

Indian (Muslim and Sikh) cameleers

Indian (Sikh) hawkers and shopkeepers

Indian labourers and entertainers

Chinese labourers and businessmen

Japanese and Malay divers and workers in the pearl industry.

The inquiry can be conducted in groups (of four or five students) or in pairs with students focusing on:

- the reasons why the chosen group came to the colony,
- their contributions to the colony,
- any problems they faced,
- their overall importance in the development of the colonies to 1901.

Suggested online links to support research:

Cameleers

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2011/07/australias-afghan-cameleers/>

http://recollections.nma.gov.au/issues/vol_2_no2/notes_and_comments/australias_muslim_cameleer_heritage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buMLmCBzNSs>

Compass History video of the Muslim Cameleers

<https://maas.museum/inside-the-collection/2015/05/06/afghans-and-camels-for-australian-inland-transport/>

Type the following into your search engine “National Archives Australia snapshots uncommon lives Muslim journeys” and scroll down to “Afghans and Indians” and also click on “Cameleers and hawkers “ which is hyperlinked in this section.

Sikh wrestlers/ entertainers

<http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/punjabi/en/content/know-story-massa-singh-australian-sikh-heritage>

Type the following into your search engine “Australian Indian History, Australian Sikh and Hindu Indian wrestlers”

Sikh hawkers

<http://www.australiansikhheritage.com/sikhhawkersandpeddlers/>

<https://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/discoverycentre/your-questions/indian-hawkers/>

<http://www.theindiansun.com.au/the-bud-who-came-into-bloom-first-punjabis-in-australia/>

<http://sheppartoninterfaith.org.au/?p=1606>

Indian labourers

<http://www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/factsheets/75.html>

<http://greataustralianstory.com.au/story/sikh-farmhands>

Chinese colonists

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Chinese-in-Western-Australia.html>

<http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/wetlands/city-development/chinese-gardeners>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-08/perth-chung-wah-chinese-association-celebrates-lunar-new-year/7149708>

<http://www.goldrushcolony.com.au/australian-gold-history-culture-info/chinese-australian-gold-fields>

<http://www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/factsheets/74.html>

Malays in the pearling industry

Type the following into your search engine “National Archives Australia snapshots uncommon lives Muslim journeys” and scroll down to “Malays - Pearl divers”.

Japanese in the pearling industry

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/australias-pearling-industry>

<http://slwa.wa.gov.au/wepon/sea/html/pearling.html>

<http://www.kimberleyaustralia.com/broome-history.html>