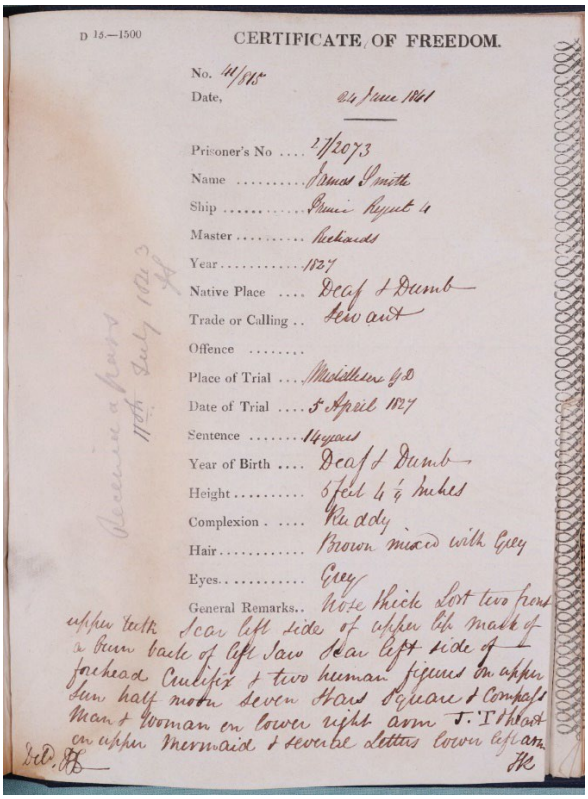
ACTIVITY 01 HANDOUT

Describing the Escapee

Deaf History Collections

Deaf convict James Smith was a bit of a wild character. The police are after him this time, and they need a good description. Practice describing him so that the police can find him. You can use the description on his Certificate of Freedom.

Certificate of Freedom from 1841



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CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.

No. 41/915

Date, 24 June 1841

Prisoner's No 2/2073

Name ..... James Smith

Ship ..... Prince Regent 4

Master ..... Richards

Year 1827

Native Place .... Deaf & Dumb

Trade or Calling .. Sawyer

Offence .....

Place of Trial ... Middlesex GD

Date of Trial .... 5 April 1827

Sentence ..... 14 years

Year of Birth .... Deaf & Dumb

Height ..... 5 feet 4 ½ Inches

Complexion .... Ruddy

Hair ..... Brown mixed with Grey

Eyes ..... Grey

General Remarks.. Nose thick Lost two front upper teeth Scar left side of upper lip Mark of a burn back of left Jaw Scar left side of forehead Crucifix & two human figures on upper Sun half moon seven Stars Square & Compass Man & Woman on lower right arm J. T & heart on upper Mermaid & several Letters lower left arm

Discharged on Board 11th July 1843

Dld. JB

Transcript of the description:

Nose thick Lost two front upper teeth Scar left side of upper lip Mark of a burn back of left jaw Scar left side of forehead Crucifix & two human figures on upper Sun half-moon seven stars square & compass Man & Woman on lower right arm J. T & heart on upper mermaid & several Letters lower left arm.

- Work in groups of two or three
- One person is a policeman or newspaper reporter, trying to draw an identikit to help identify James, who has run away (again!).
- The other group member/s are witnesses. Use the description of James to describe him in detail to the police.
- Conversation should be in Auslan, and your description must include at least three depicting signs.
- See how close the identikit is to the description on James' certificate.