

ACTIVITY 02

Whatever Happened to James?

LEARNING AREA:	Auslan (V9) – L1 pathway
YEAR LEVEL(S):	7-8 (Year 7 entry)

CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS	CONTENT ELABORATIONS
<p><i>Creating text in Auslan:</i> Create signed, visual and multimodal informative and imaginative texts, for familiar contexts and purposes using appropriate vocabulary, phrases, grammatical structures, and some textual conventions.</p> <p>AC9L1AU8EC05</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> re-enacting short simple real-life scenarios that include two characters and their interactions through the use of constructed action and depicting signs.

LEARNING INTENTION/S

I will participate in a re-enactment of an imagined incident in the deaf convict James Smith's life, using constructed action and depicting signs.

SOURCES

General introduction to the convict system (video)
 James Smith story (curator video)
 James Smith's Convict Indent (document)
 James Smith's Certificate of Freedom (document)
 Student Handout

INSTRUCTIONS

- Print out student activity sheet, showing deaf convict James Smith's Convict Indent and Certificate of Freedom, with the transcripts of the descriptive remarks.
- Assign students to work in groups of two or three – one will adopt the role of James Smith, the other(s) will be fellow convicts.
- Students to compare the descriptions of James Smith on his Convict Indent (1827) and his Certificate of Freedom (1841) and develop a scenario to show how he acquired some of the additional marks and scars.
- Students to develop a re-enactment of this scenario, where they take turns describing what happened to James.
- Their narratives must include at least two examples each of constructed action and depicting signs.
- Student pairs/groups take turns performing their re-enactments for the class.

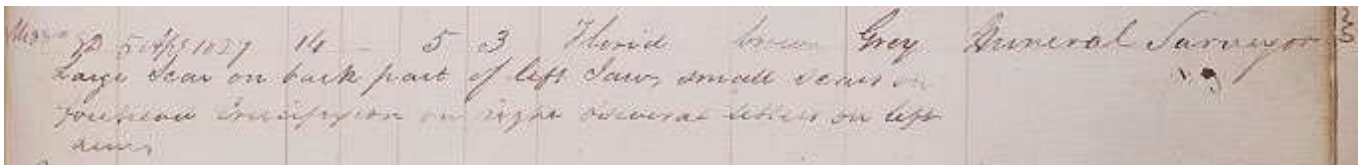
KEY CONCEPTS/VOCABULARY

Convict, scar, tattoo, other...

Whatever Happened to James?

Deaf convict James Smith was not looking good when he arrived in Sydney in 1827. But he looked even more battle-scarred when he received his Certificate of Freedom in 1841. Discuss how he might have come by some of his additional scars and markings, and develop a re-enactment of what happened to him.

Indent from 1841



Transcript of the description:

When tried: 5th April 1827

Sentence: 14 years

Height: 5 feet and 3

inches Complexion:

Florid

Hair: Brown

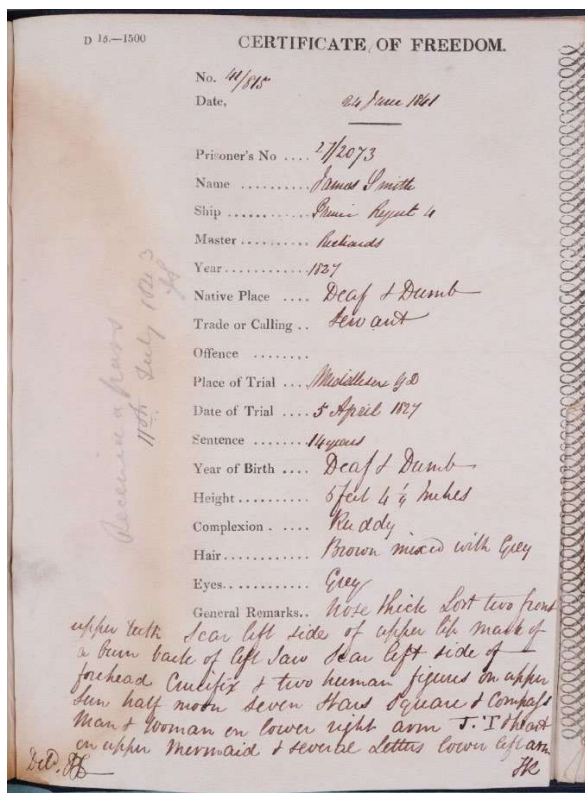
Eyes: Grey

Indentured to: General Surveyor

Large scar on back part of left jaw, small scars on forehead Crucifixion on right and several letters on left arms.

Whatever Happened to James?

Certificate of Freedom from 1841



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, and compare the descriptions of James Smith in 1827 and 1841.
- Develop a scenario to explain how he acquired his additional scars or marks.
- Develop a re-enactment of this scenario in Auslan – one of you as James, and the others as some of his fellow convicts.
- Your Auslan explanations must include constructed action and depicting signs.
- Practice your re-enactment together and show the class.