

James Smith and his misadventures

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

CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS	CONTENT ELABORATIONS
<p><i>Interacting in Auslan:</i> Interact with others using modelled language to exchange information in familiar contexts about self and personal worlds.</p> <p>AC9L1AU8EC01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describing and comparing people and objects using depicting signs.
<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 SEQUENCE OVERVIEW

Students will describe the deaf convict James Smith's appearance in Auslan and re-enact a scenario to explain how he acquired some of his scars and marks. They will make use of depicting signs and constructed action.

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)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 – 'Describing the Escapee'
 Activity 2 – 'Whatever Happened to James?'

ACTIVITY 01

Describing the Escapee

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LEARNING INTENTION/S

I will describe the deaf convict James Smith’s physical appearance. I will make use of depicting signs to describe his scars, tattoos, and other marks.

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

1. Show the video “General introduction to the convict system” or give a teacher-led explanation of the system.
2. Print James Smith’s Certificate of Freedom, discuss descriptive remarks about him (clarifying that many are descriptions of tattoos).
3. Assign students to work in groups of two or three, adopting roles of police/prison officer/newspaper reporter and witnesses/fellow convicts.
4. Police officer to question witnesses in Auslan about appearance of James Smith, in order to develop an identikit picture of him.
5. Witnesses to describe Smith in Auslan, using the Certificate of Freedom remarks, ensuring that they use at least three depicting signs.
6. Students to switch roles if time allows.

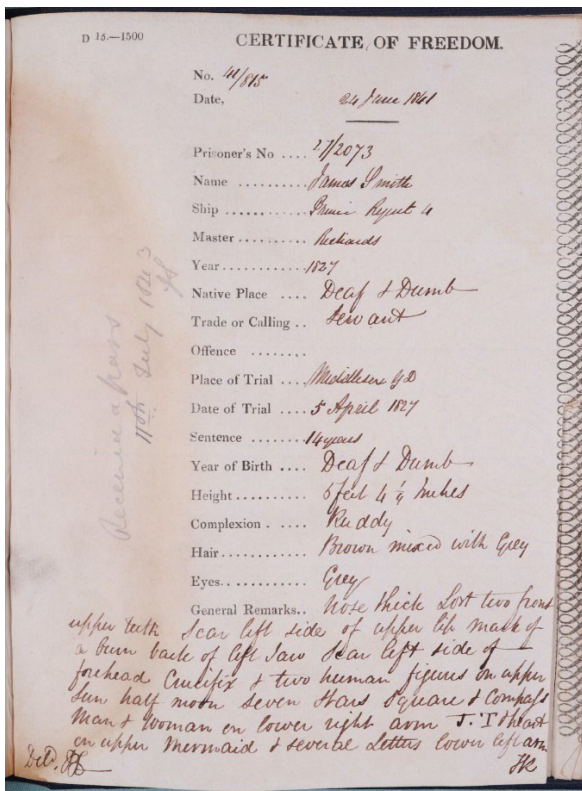
KEY CONCEPTS/VOCABULARY

Convict, scar, tattoo, other...

Describing the Escapee

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



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.

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.

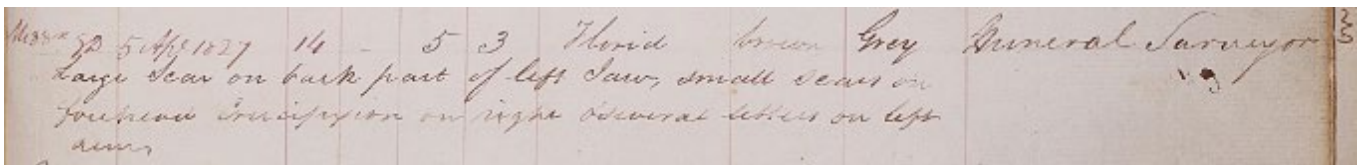
KEY CONCEPTS/VOCABULARY

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

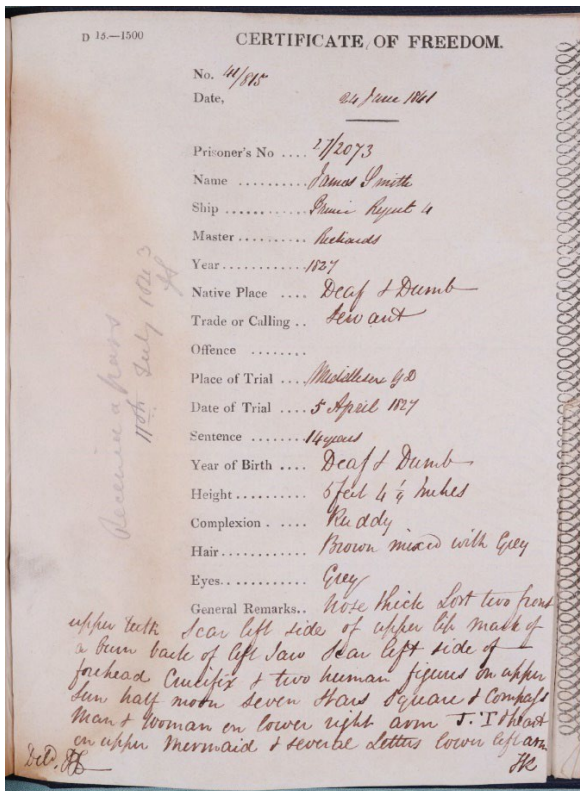
Eyes: Grey

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.