



RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary
(ages 8+)

CONTENTS

Plot summary	1
About the author	2
Author's inspiration	2
Writing style	2
Key study topics	3
Further reading	4

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English and HASS
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Investigate historical, geographic, civic and economic concepts and ideas
- Develop critical and creative thinking

THEMES

- Australian history
- Relationships
- Society
- Personal and social ethics
- Exploration and Australian historical identity
- Unsolved mysteries

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143309260 (paperback);
9781760146528 (ebook)

ISBN: 9780143309277 (paperback);
9780760142919 (ebook)

ISBN: 9780143309253 (paperback);
9781760142896 (ebook)

ISBN: 9780143309321 (paperback);
9781760142889 (ebook)

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History Mysteries: Diamond Jack The Lost Explorer The Last Tiger Lasseter's Gold By Mark Greenwood

PLOT SUMMARY

In the History Mysteries series, Mark Greenwood has selected some of the wildest, coolest stories from Australian history.

DIAMOND JACK

In March 1942, an aircraft prepares for a desperate midnight escape – taking refugees to safety in Australia. Just before take-off, the pilot is entrusted with a mysterious, wax-sealed package. But when the plane is shot down by the enemy and crash lands on the Kimberley coast, the package is forgotten. Until someone stumbles across the find of lifetime...

THE LOST EXPLORER

In 1848 the famous explorer Ludwig Leichhardt sets out on an epic journey. His aim is to cross Australia from east to west, but he never reaches his destination and no one from his expedition is ever seen again. Countless search parties set out to look for him but no trace is ever found. Until a young boy is given an artefact with an incredible story...

THE LAST TIGER

On September 7, 1936, the last captive Tasmanian tiger dies alone and neglected in a Hobart zoo. Since then many people claim to have sighted this amazing creature. Did the entire species vanish forever on that bleak night? No one can prove the tiger still exists, but could a determined searcher and modern science provide a glimmer of hope?

LASSETER'S GOLD

It's 1930, and a man named Harold Lasseter claims to have discovered a massive gold reef in Central Australia. As he journeys across the desert to find it again, he buries maps and secret messages beneath the ashes of his campfires – before taking the location of the treasure to his grave...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Greenwood is a history hunter. He enjoys searching for lost explorers and glittering treasure, delving into mysteries and solving famous cold cases. Most of all, he loves sharing the stories that he finds.

Mark's books include *Jandamarra* with Terry Denton and *Simpson and his Donkey* with Frané Lessac. His award-winning books have been published around the world.

He regularly visits schools around Australia and talks to kids and teachers about Australia's amazing past.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

I enjoy delving into the past and unveiling stories that have been lost or forgotten. I find surprise and inspiration in little known slices of history.

To me, writing about the past is like time travelling. Creating these history mysteries takes me on imaginary adventures. I enjoy the creative process of reconstructing journeys, quests and challenges of curious characters like Diamond Jack and Ludwig Leichhardt.

DIAMOND JACK

The spark to write *Diamond Jack* came from a visit to the historical museum in Broome. I was curious about the town's wartime history, and intrigued by one particular photograph. It showed five men beside a bullet-riddled aircraft. They'd been sent on a mission to locate a missing treasure of diamonds. One of the men in the photo was Diamond Jack.

I began collecting information about him from libraries and archives. Researching history is like going on a journey of discovery. It helps me balance creative interpretation with historical authenticity.

On the surface, the story of Diamond Jack is a remarkable wartime adventure and a tale of survival against the odds. Beneath the surface, it is an incredible true story of an endearing character, forced to confront the consequences of an amazing discovery.

The Lost Explorer

The mysterious disappearance of Ludwig Leichhardt is one of Australia's greatest unsolved mysteries. It has always fascinated me.

Some time ago, I stumbled upon an article about a gold prospector, a teenage boy and a small relic, said to have once belonged to the explorer. I began researching – brushing away layers of time. The discovery of the relic was a story within a story. It was a possible clue to our most baffling history mystery - the fate of Ludwig Leichhardt and his expedition.

I'm interested in the many personalities who have contributed to our history. My intention in writing *The Lost Explorer* was to encourage an understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice made by people like Ludwig Leichhardt, who went forth into the unknown at a time when Australia's interior was uncharted by Europeans.

I hope these stories connect readers to the characters and their situations, so that the past lives and breathes. My aim is that these history mysteries become a springboard for deeper study and learning.

WRITING STYLE

- What is the writing style the author has used? Consider how and when information is revealed, and the use of the intimate-third-person perspective. What is another way this story could have been told? Compare and contrast to another history book you have read. And compare and contrast to a fictional mystery novel you have read.
- Read the quote at the end of the book. What does that tell you about how the author views history? Use your research skills to find out something about the authors he quotes from.
- The novel's ending is not a conventionally satisfying one. What did you think of this ending? Was it the best ending for this particular story?
- How does the book's title relate to its content? What does it refer to?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Researching historical information

- Read the note about history at the end of the book. What are the main types of evidence that an historian might look up? Where in the story can you see that the author has researched using the methods and evidence he mentions? And what does each of the pieces of evidence in the book show you?
- Use the resources at the end of the book to look up more interesting information about this period of history. Include information from one website, one online newspaper and one book.

Storytelling

- What are the mysteries to be answered in the book? How effectively does the 'mystery' work to draw the reader into the story? Write part of your own history as a timeline and then as a 'story' with a mystery to solve.



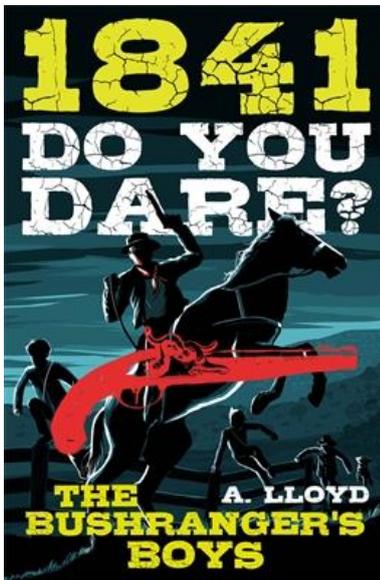
- Choose an incident in the story and write it from a different perspective – choosing an historical character mentioned in the story.
- What does the cover tell you about the tone and content of the book?

Australian Identity

- What does it mean to be 'Australian'? How might different people answer that question depending on their cultural background, gender or other factors? How might two real-life characters in this story see their Australian identity differently?
- Is there an ethical dilemma in the book? What is it and what would you have done?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Do You Dare: The Bushranger's Boys
by A Lloyd

Do you dare . . .
Confront a bully?
Steal to protect someone?
Hide a bushranger?
It's an adventure in Australian history.
Do You Dare?

An exciting, action-packed adventure set in 1841.



Do You Dare: Eureka Boys
by P Matthews

Do you dare . . .
Join a rebellion?
Stand up to a bully?
Risk your life for a friend?
It's an adventure in Australian history.
Do You Dare?

An exciting, action-packed adventure set in 1854.



Do You Dare: Eureka Boys
by S Mitchell

Do you dare . . .
Let a girl join your cricket team?
Fight for your friends?
Risk everything to save your family?
It's an adventure in Australian history.
Do You Dare?

An exciting, action-packed adventure set in 1931.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
DIAMOND JACK	Mark Greenwood	9780143309260	8+	\$12.99		
THE LOST EXPLORER	Mark Greenwood	9780143309277	8+	\$12.99		
Do You Dare: The Bushranger's Boys	A Lloyd	9780143307563	8+	\$14.99		
Do You Dare: Eureka Boys	P Matthews	9780143308454	8+	\$14.99		
Do You Dare: Tough Times	S Mitchell	9780143308010	8+	\$14.99		
THE LAST TIGER	Mark Greenwood	9780143309253	8+	\$12.99		
LASSETER'S GOLD	Mark Greenwood	9780143309321	8+	\$12.99		
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