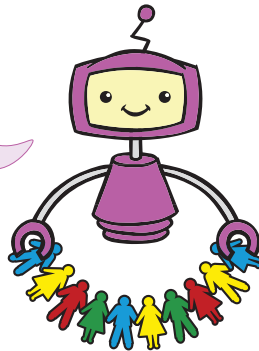


# Bird Creek Mission

Have you ever thought about the history of Australia's relationship with the rest of the world? From the earliest days of Australian settlement, people have travelled to the continent from all over the planet. Curious? Let's find out more about people who emigrated to Australia ...



## LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 14

Learning Object 2: *A comic book journal*

## PRIOR LEARNING:

### Stage 2

Module 15 Work Sheet 3: *Life stories*

### Stage 3

Module 6 Work Sheet 2: *Who is that?*

## 1 Becoming Australian

Have you ever heard of the Victorian Gold Rush? During the mid-1800s, more than one third of the world's gold was found in Victoria.

People from all over the world came to Australia to work in the goldfields. Among the 40,000 Chinese men who came to Australia was the great-grandfather of the Australian children's author Gabrielle Wang. His name was Jimmy Ah Kew Chen. He emigrated to Australia from Quangdong in China when he was just 18 years old.

Gabrielle is a fourth-generation, Chinese-Australian woman. In many of her books, she draws on her knowledge of her Chinese and Australian heritage.

In this work sheet, you are going to read an extract from one of her books, *Meet Poppy*.

### *Meet Poppy*

*Meet Poppy* is the story of a young girl who lives at Bird Creek Mission, near Echuca in Victoria, with her brother. Poppy's mother is an Aborigine, and her father is Chinese.

Poppy's real name is Kalinya, and her brother's name is Moyhu. They were given English names when they arrived at Bird Creek Mission, and are strictly forbidden from using their Aboriginal names.



This image is in the public domain.

Discovery of 'The Welcome Stranger': the largest alluvial gold nugget found in the world. Victoria, 1869.

The story is set in 1864, during the Gold Rush.

Have you ever thought about your family's heritage? Perhaps, like Gabrielle Wang, your ancestors came to Australia from somewhere in Asia.

Perhaps you have convict ancestors, or an Indigenous heritage? Many Australians have a mixed heritage, just like the character of Poppy in the extract you are about to read.

The influx of various immigrants to Australia has had an enormous impact on the social, cultural and political make-up of the country.

Did you know, for example, that the areas we call Chinatown, in Melbourne and Sydney, were first established during the era of the Gold Rush?

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

Australia's long history of immigration, as well as the increasing ethnic diversity of its population, have spurred debates about Australian identity, and what it means to be an Australian.

Gabrielle Wang tackled this issue in her novel, *Meet Poppy*. It was published in 2011, the first in a series of four books that follow the adventures of Poppy and her brother.

## Exercises

The following text is an extract from Gabrielle Wang's novel, *Meet Poppy*.

**Read the text, using all the reading strategies you have already learned in Stages 1 and 2.**

After you have read the text you will be asked to complete two kinds of reading exercises: comprehension questions and some critical-thinking questions.

*Kenalkan, ini Poppy*

Begitu Poppy sendirian, dia mengeluarkan surat itu dan membukanya. Di dalamnya ada berbaris-baris simbol yang lebih aneh lagi, kali ini ditulis dengan tinta hitam menggunakan sebuah kuas. Sepertinya semacam tulisan tapi dalam bahasa apa? Apa mungkin bahasa Cina?

Poppy mencegat Johnny ketika dia mau pergi. 'Siapa yang memberimu surat ini, Johnny?' tanyanya.

'Seorang laki-laki Cina, aku tidak kenal dia. Dia bilang, "Kamu kenal anak laki-laki dan perempuan peranakan Cina di Bird Creek?" Johnny bilang, 'Ya'. Dia bilang, 'Kamu kasih dia surat'.

'Tapi ... tapi aku nggak mengerti ... Johnny. Tolong, apa kamu bisa bacakan untuk aku? Apa kata surat ini?' Poppy menyerahkan surat itu ke tangan si penjaja keliling.

Johnny tertawa. 'Maaf, ya. Johnny dari keluarga miskin. Tidak bisa membaca.' Dia memberi surat itu kembali kepada Poppy kemudian menepuk tangan Poppy. 'Sudah mulai sore. Johnny harus pergi banyak tempat. *Joy gin!*' Dan dia melenggang cepat meninggalkan rumah lewat jalan masuk.

Poppy menggenggam erat surat itu. Dia punya banyak sekali pertanyaan yang tidak terjawab, kepalanya sakit karena beban semua itu. Siapa yang memberi surat itu kepada Johnny? Dan apa artinya semua simbol yang aneh itu? Johnny tadi bilang bahwa surat itu untuk dia dan Gus. Betapainginnya dia bahwa kakak laki-lakinya itu ada di sini sekarang. Banyak sekali pikiran yang berpacu dalam benaknya — kaget karena dikirim ke kota Sydney, takut kalau-kalau Gus tidak akan pernah menemukannya lagi, dan sekarang surat ini.

### Exercise 1

#### Reading comprehension

First, let's have a look at how well you understood the text.

**1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas from each paragraph.**

#### Paragraph one

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

**Paragraph two**

---

---

**Paragraph three**

---

---

**Paragraph four**

---

---

**Paragraph five**

---

---

**Paragraph six**

---

---

---

**1.2** Were there particular words or phrases you found difficult to understand? What strategies did you use to understand these words or phrases, or to understand the text as a whole despite not being sure what some words meant?

---

---

---

---

(continued on following page)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**1.3 Who gave the letter to Johnny?**

---

---

**1.4 Why can't Johnny read the letter to Poppy when she asks him to?**

---

---

**1.5 Why do you think Poppy cannot read the letter herself, even though she has a Chinese father?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Exercise 2

---

### Critical and creative thinking

It is time to warm up those critical and creative-thinking skills.

Answer these questions in English.

- 2.1** First, let's try some critical thinking. In Block 1, you learned that many Australians have a diverse cultural heritage, like Poppy and her brother Gus.

**What do you think makes a person 'Indonesian' or 'Australian'?**

**Do you think there are cultural differences in how people in Indonesia and people in Australia relate to their cultural heritage?**

**Hint!** You might find it useful to think about your own heritage, or those of your classmates in answering this question. You might also like to consider what defines an Indonesian or Australian person: that they were born here? That they have lived in the country for a specific period of time (or number of generations!) That they speak the language, or understand the culture? That they conform to cultural and social expectations? That they have legal citizenship?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





