

## **The Night We Made the Flag: A Eureka Story**

**By Carole Wilkinson**

**illustrated by Sebastian Ciaffaglione**

**A fascinating tale about the making of the Eureka Flag**

### **Rationale**

Students should use the text and other sources to complete the tasks in these teacher notes. The activities are designed to engage students and provide a creative learning experience.

### **How to use**

Learning activities suggested in one discipline may also be applicable to another discipline.

### **About the book**

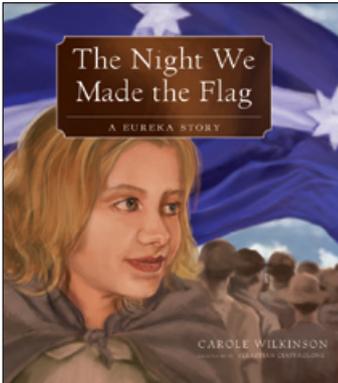
*The Night We Made the Flag, A Eureka Story*, is a picture book that imagines what might have happened on the night the Eureka flag was sewn by women on the Ballarat goldfields. The story is told from the point-of-view of Mary, a young girl who helps sew the flag. The rich pictures and text provide information about life on the goldfields. There is detailed information about the Eureka Stockade at the end of the book. The story makes an excellent starting point for discussions about the democratic rights won as a result of the diggers' battle.

### **Readership**

- Mid-primary to mid-secondary students.

### **Topics**

- The Eureka Stockade
- Life on the goldfields
- Democracy
- Human Rights
- Pioneering women
- Lawmaking and law enforcement in the 1800s
- Immigration
- Crime
- Conflict



**Classroom activities**

**1. SOSE/HSIE**

**Draw a map of Australia.**

- Mark in the states, territories and capital cities. Include a border, title, northing, key and scale on your map.
- On your map mark in the Victorian goldfields that are the subject of *The Night We Made the Flag*.
- Mark in any other goldfields that existed in Victoria at this time.

Study the illustrations in *The Night We Made the Flag*. Record your observations in the table below. When you have finished, add to your table from the information given at the end of the book.

<b>The Goldfields</b>	<b>Info gained from illustrations</b>	<b>Info gained from the text</b>
Women		
Housing		
Food, clothing, entertainment		
Health		
Democratic rights		
Crime		
Police		
Gold licences		
Immigration		

Create a 'Eureka Stockade' timeline. Include pictures to highlight key dates.

Imagine a society where you could not rely on the police to protect your rights.

- Discuss some of the problems that might arise.
- Use this discussion to write a diary entry as one of the gold miners in Ballarat.

As a class, create a newspaper to explore the events leading up to and including the Eureka Stockade.

**Questions for class discussion**

- Why did mass immigration cause conflict on the goldfields?
- What were some factors that led to increased crime?
- Why was there tension between the police and the diggers?
- Why was the Eureka Stockade an important step towards democracy in Australia?



## 2. SCIENCE

Mary's dad tells her that the Southern Cross is full of Australia's own private stars.

- Find the Southern Cross in the night sky.
- Find out five facts about the Southern Cross.
- Find out three facts about one other constellation that can be seen from Australia.
- Present all of your findings as a PowerPoint presentation.

## 3. ENGLISH

### Reading and writing

Mary's first job is to put the boys to bed. She tells them a story to keep them quiet.

- Write and illustrate the story that Mary tells them.

Mary's mum is a strong character in this story.

- Write a personal essay on a strong woman that you know. It might be your mother, grandmother, sister or family friend.

Through the voice of Mary, Carole Wilkinson describes the Ballarat goldfields with detail.

- Find some strong verbs that the author uses to enhance her descriptions.
- Find some examples of alliteration in the book.
- How many of the senses does Carole Wilkinson refer to in her descriptions?
- Describe a place that you know well. Use some of the discussed techniques to bring your scene alive.

Mary has to give up her best petticoat to help make the flag.

- Write about a time when you gave something up to help someone else.

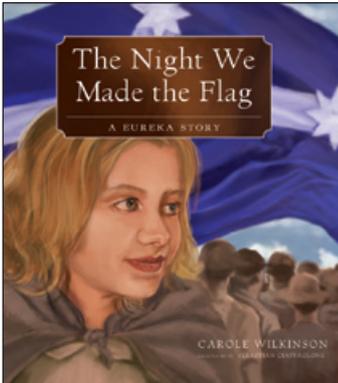
The men and women on the goldfields defended something that they believed in during the Eureka Stockade. Write about a cause or issue about which you feel passionate.

### Speaking and listening

As a class, discuss how the groups listed below would have viewed the Eureka Stockade differently.

- Police
- Diggers
- Squatters
- Women
- Children

Read 'The Fight at Eureka Stockade' written by Henry Lawson. Discuss what you have learnt from this poem. Illustrate one of the verses.



Discuss some contemporary issues that cause debate nationally or internationally. Choose some of these and organise some class debates to argue the issues!

Discuss some ways that people resolve conflicts in Australia. Rank these in order of effectiveness.

#### **4. BOOK FEATURES AND FORMAT**

The Night We Made the Flag has features typically found in both fiction and non-fiction texts.

- Make a list of these features.
- Do you think a picture book is an effective method of conveying factual information? Why or why not?
- Create a glossary for this book. Include words that contemporary readers might not understand.

#### **5. CREATIVE ARTS**

Create a picture storybook to explain one historical event to children. You might like to imagine some extra details like Carole Wilkinson has done in her book.

#### **6. ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Carole Wilkinson is an award-winning author of books for children. She has a longstanding fascination with dragons and is interested in the history of everything. Carole is a meticulous researcher who finds it difficult to stop researching and begin writing. She once searched for weeks to find out whether there were daffodils in Han Dynasty China. Carole is married, has a daughter, and lives in inner-city Melbourne.

#### **7. ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR**

Working out of Melbourne, Sebastian Ciaffaglione is a freelance illustrator who studied at NMIT in Preston. Sebastian began working as an illustrator right out of art school and is now living the dream of painting all day and not working in an office.

Sebastian specializes in concept art, book covers and children's books. He especially enjoys making fantastic things seem realistic.