

Teacher Resource

Pet Camels

Episode 16
11th June 2019

Focus Questions

1. What did the BTN *Pet Camels* story explain?
2. What type of camels were in the BTN story?
 - a. Dromedary
 - b. Bactrian
 - c. Both
3. Why does the Mitchell family think camels make great pets?
4. When were camels first introduced to Australia?
5. Where did they come from?
6. Why were they introduced?
7. When the _____ engine came along, camels were no longer needed.
8. How many feral camels live in the deserts of Australia?
9. What impact are they having on the environment?
10. What are some solutions to the problem of feral camels?

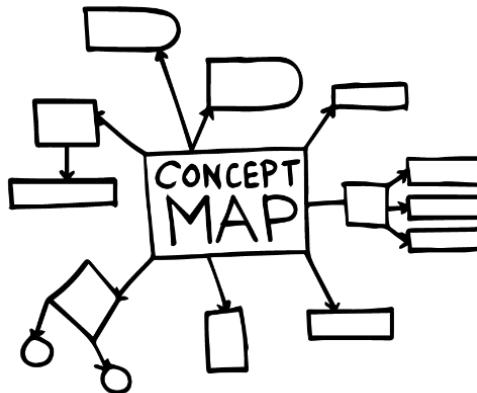
Activity

Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion about the information raised in the *Pet Camels* story. Create a class mind map with CAMELS in the middle. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What do you know about camels?
- What words would you use to describe camels?
- When were camels introduced to Australia?
- What were they used for?
- What are some different methods of controlling camel populations?
- What does it mean to 'cull'?
- Why are some people against the idea of culling?

Students can research answers to questions they have about camels and present the information to a small group or the class.



Key Learning

Students will explore the issue of introduced species to Australia. Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry about the history of Afghan cameleers in Australia.

Curriculum

HASS – Year 5

The reasons people migrated to Australia and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.

HASS – Year 6

Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia since Federation (including from ONE country of the Asia region) and reasons they migrated.

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

Science – Year 6

With guidance, pose clarifying questions and make predictions about scientific investigations.

Activity

Six Hat Thinking

Working in pairs, students use Edward De Bono's *Six Hat Thinking* to explore the issues raised in the BTN *Pet Camels* story. Ask students to respond to the following questions:



feelings and emotions

How did the *Pet Camels* story make you feel?



facts and information

What do you know about camels?
What have you learnt from the story?



positives

Were there any positives from the story? If so, what were they?



negatives

What are some of the negatives or challenges that you learnt from the story?



creativity

Why is it important to find out more about the issue of feral animals?



thinking about thinking

What questions were raised during this activity?
What do you want to learn further about this topic?

Activity

BTN Stories

Watch these BTN stories to learn more about camels and their impact on people and the environment.



[Camel Racer](#)



[Camel Cup](#)



[Camel Plague](#)

Activity

Introduced species – Research Task

Students will investigate the impact that introduced species have on the environment and choose one to research. Include the following information:

- A description of the animal
- The country the animal came from
- When and why the animal was introduced to Australia
- Where the animal lives in Australia (show on a map)
- The animal's habitat
- The impact the animal is having on native animals and the environment.
- Methods being used to control the animal (give at least one example)

Below are stories about introduced species on the BTN website to help students with their research. For example: [Dirk Hartog Island](#), [Toad Training](#), [Controlling Carp](#) and [Macquarie Success](#).

Activity

Be a reporter for a day

Students will investigate the issue of controlling camel populations in Australia and write a newspaper article or online news report. Things to think about:

- Who is your target audience? Use age appropriate language and themes.
- Write a headline that is short and to the point.
- Use words and pictures in your report.
- Find information from a variety of sources.
- Present the facts and/or opinions clearly and accurately.

Activity

Questions for inquiry – Afghan Cameleers

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry about the history of Afghan cameleers, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one or more of the questions below.

- Who were the cameleers? Where did they come from?
- Why did they come to Australia?
- What was life like in Australia for them? Where did they live?
- What are some of the experiences that the Afghan cameleers had when they arrived in Australia in the 1860s?
- What contributions to Australian life did the Afghan Cameleers make?

Activity

Visual literacy

As a class examine the following historical images and hold a class discussion asking students what they see and what they think is happening. Individually students will choose one of the images and respond to the questions below.

Observe

- What do you see in this image? Write a short paragraph describing what you see in the image.
- Are there details you can't identify?
- Create a caption for the image.

Reflect

- What do you think is happening?
- How does the image make you feel?

Query

- What might have happened just before and just after the scene in the picture?
- What questions do you have about what you see in this image?



Unloading camels at Port Augusta, ca. 1920.

Source: State Library of South Australia



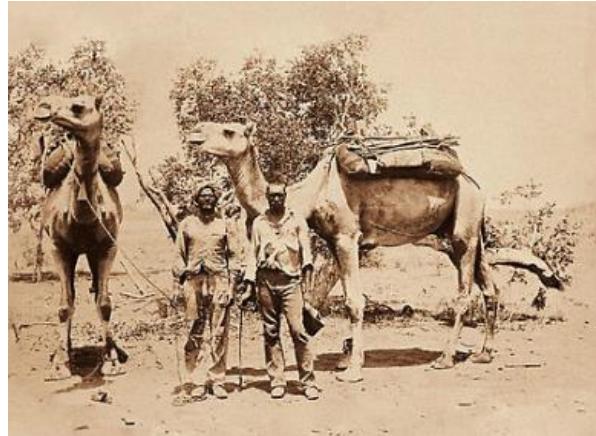
Bejah and Warrior

Source: State Library of South Australia ([link](#) to image)



Expedition party at waterhole

Source: South Australian Museum ([link](#) to image)



Photograph taken c. 1891.

Source: State Library of WA ([link](#) to image)

Useful Websites

BTN – Camel Plague

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/camel-plague/10538408>

BTN – Camel Racer

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/camel-racer/10524504>

ABC News – Camels adopted as pets by families could curb

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-02/camels-the-new-backyard-pet/11133664>

Department of Sustainability – Camel Fact Sheet

<http://155.187.2.69/biodiversity/invasive/publications/pubs/camel-factsheet.pdf>

Australian Geographic – Australia's Afghan Cameleers

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2011/07/australias-afghan-cameleers/>