

**Grade 5 HASS  
Australian History**

**Australian  
Explorers**

**Ludwig  
Leichhardt**

**6 Fun Activities!**

Mini-Unit Title Page

The Ghost of Ludwig

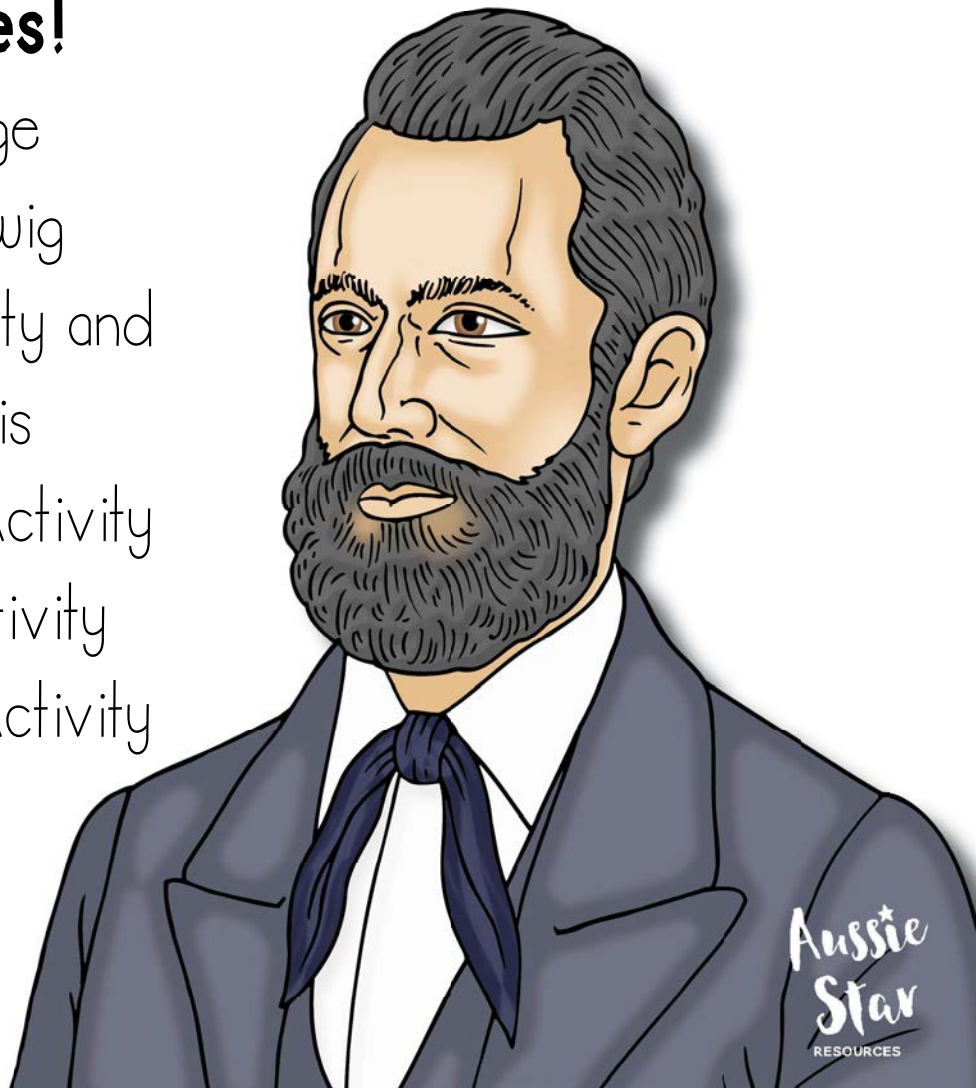
Comprehension Activity and

Character Analysis

Biography Research Activity

Locating Ludwig Activity

Expedition Mapping Activity



# Exploring the Australian Explorers



Ludwig Leichhardt

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## A Campfire Encounter

A semicircle of hikers sat around a campfire in the middle of the Australian outback. It was a bright night and the full moon glowed eerily over the entire desert. The hikers had been telling ghost stories all night and the guide now sat on his sleeping bag, smiling.

The campfire suddenly subsided and spot and a ghostly shape appeared in front of the flickering flames.

It was a man, dressed in old-fashioned clothes. He was rugged and scruffy. He looked at the surprised group and cried, "Who are you?"

The guide jumped up and said, "What! We mean you no harm. Who are you?"

The humped man eyed the hikers warily and said, "I'm Ludwig Leichhardt, the Prince of Explorers."

The hikers exchanged glances and one said, "That can't be! What's today's date?"

The man scratched his long beard and said, "Why? It's 19th of April 1848 of course." His had a strong German accent.

The group began muttering to themselves until the guide called for quiet. He looked at the man and said, "Can you prove you are Leichhardt?"

Leichhardt smiled and said, "You doubt me? Of course you do, you must be simple colonialists, new to Antipodes Land. What would you like to know? That I sailed to Australia to study botany and explore this uncharted land? That I am a learned man, a scientist, a linguist, philosopher and discoverer, concepts no doubt far above your limited abilities."

The guide leaned forward and looked intently at Leichhardt. The campfire heaved behind him. "We have heard about Ludwig Leichhardt. A poor business, judge of his companions and unprepared for his expedition into the Great Sandy Desert."

Leichhardt stepped he right hand on his hip and shouted, "Outrageous lies spread by the press! I am an expert explorer. An unshakable (stupid) And I take such supplies on my expeditions that we are

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never starved with it's herd of bullocks, mules his food (flour, sugar and tea. A horse space for the men. And set up permanent meat-hanging racks, two double-barrelled pistols and my very own sword."

The guide shook his head. "All but a hand must be kept together, a horse space is no use if one horse gets lost and what good are a few guns against dozens of indigenous Australia carrying spears and boomerangs?"

Leichhardt frowned at the guide and said, "You speak with a strange tongue and you also speak in riddles you have forgotten my facts."

The guide roared. "We know, you believe it is 19th April 1848, but it is the year 2017 and you are a ghost!"

Leichhardt made the sign of the cross and cried, "I have no answers for the lies of god! I must get back to the expedition. We cross the Great Sandy Desert from Darling Downs to the Swan River settlement and have yet to cross a great dry basin. We must hurry before the rains break!"

The guide leaned forward and said, "You worry about floods?"

Leichhardt frowned. "Floods, bush fires, pestilence. This land is a mighty threat. My companions grow weary and querulous as we cross."

"You fear nothing?" One of the hikers asked.

Leichhardt looked around the semicircle of hikers and frowned as he looked at their strange clothing, jeans and t-shirts. "You speak the truth! You are people of the far-fung future!"

The guide nodded.

"If this is true, why do you ask me for answers? Surely my expedition was published with lengthy reports? Are the names Leichhardt, Clouston and Henty not famous?" Leichhardt asked.

The guide shook his head sadly. "No. The Leichhardt party was lost in the Great Sandy Desert sometime in 1848. No one to this day knows what happened. The mystery remains."

Leichhardt shook his head and whispered, "No! I can't be! No!"

And as though his disbelief were fuel to the fire, the campfire suddenly roared and surrounded the ghost of Ludwig Leichhardt in flames.

The hikers shielded their eyes from the blazing campfire. When they looked back, Leichhardt was gone.

"The mystery remains." The guide said sadly.

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### A Campfire Encounter



What are your first thoughts or questions after reading the story about the campers and Ludwig Leichhardt?

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.....

After we've read a story it can help to summarise it so you can quickly tell others what it is about, what happens and how it ends. Summarising can also help us remember information for later because we only include the most important parts. Write your own summary of A Campfire Encounter.

"Floods, bush fires, pestilence. This land is a mighty threat. My companions grow weary and querulous as we cross."

Pestilence:

.....

.....

Querulous:

.....

.....

Define the words 'pestilence' and 'querulous'.

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What are some of the suggested issues Leichhardt may have had with his expedition party that lead to their disappearance?

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.....

Find and record definitions for the following words:

Musing: .....

.....

Bundled: .....

.....

According to the text, what supplies did Ludwig Leichhardt take on his expedition?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Do you have a theory about what happened to Ludwig Leichhardt and his expedition party? Explain your theory here and provide justification (reasons) for your thinking.

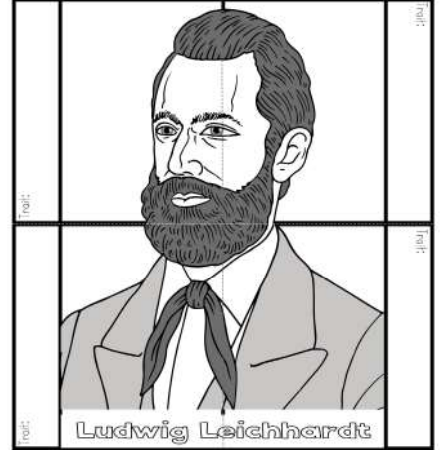
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Ludwig Leichhardt

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Ludwig Leichhardt is: Because the text says: ..... .....	Ludwig Leichhardt is: Because the text says: ..... .....
Ludwig Leichhardt is: Because the text says: ..... .....	Ludwig Leichhardt is: Because the text says: ..... .....

1. Cut around the outside edge of this section.
2. Glue it in to your book entirely.
3. After reading the text choose four adjectives to describe the character of Ludwig Leichhardt and then explain your reason for choosing this word by providing evidence from the text.
4. Cut around the edge of the cover page and then in to four sections. Glue these on top, lining up the image of Leichhardt to create 11 mini books. Please refer to the pictures.

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# Ludwig Leichhardt Character Traits

What impression do you get of Leichhardt from the story you have read? Would he be easy to travel with? Can you relate to him at all? Do you like a challenge? Or is he very different from you? If so how?

List as many adjectives as you can to describe Ludwig Leichhardt.



Ludwig Leichhardt

## Explorer Profile:

### Ludwig Leichhardt



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Education: \_\_\_\_\_

#### When and how did Ludwig Leichhardt come to Australia?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### First Expedition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expedition route: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Discoveries made and landmarks named: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Second Expedition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expedition route: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did the expedition end? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Three questions I have about Ludwig Leichhardt:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Three facts I've learned about Ludwig Leichhardt:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Ludwig Leichhardt's second expedition is a mystery. What do you think happened to him? Explain your theory and justify it by providing facts and evidence from your web search.

Using appropriate search keywords is important to find information quickly from reliable sites. Record the keywords you used here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Record the websites you used for your research.

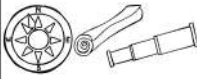
1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Locating Leichhardt?



Your mission: The Australian Government has appointed you with the important task of finding out once and for all what happened to Ludwig Leichhardt. You will be the leader of this expedition and you will need to think carefully and plan well. Complete each section to plan your expedition.

What time of year will you conduct your expedition? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could choose anyone, who would be your Assistant? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of skills and personal qualities should you demonstrate as Expedition Leader?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What items would you take with you? Think about the skills and knowledge you might need on your expedition. For example would you take a geological or archeological? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What dangers might you face on your expedition? List them all here.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



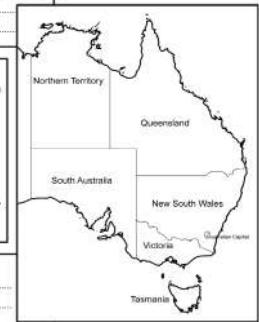
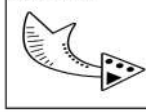
What kind of equipment would you take with you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Based on your research of Leichhardt's final expedition shade the area on the map that would search.

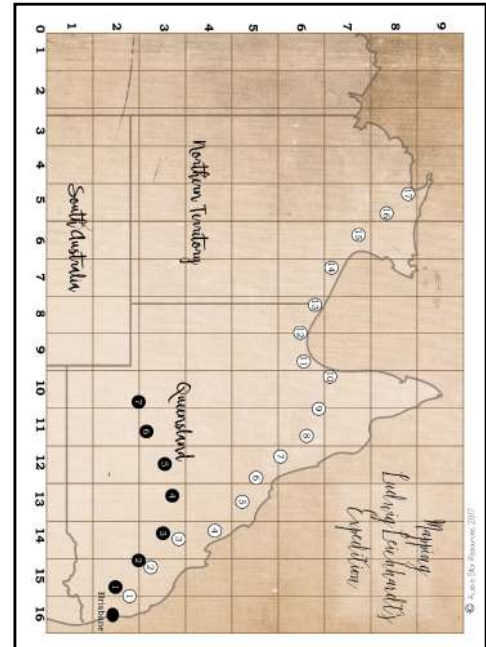


List your food supplies here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Mapping Ludwig Leichhardt's Expedition

Track Ludwig Leichhardt's expeditions on the map.

Connect the white numbers using a blue pencil or pen. This is Ludwig Leichhardt's first major expedition from Moreton Bay (Brisbane) to Port Essington on the Coburg Peninsula.

Connect the black numbers using a red pencil or pen. This is the path of Ludwig Leichhardt's final expedition which led to their disappearance. Many expeditions followed to try and find the lost party but nearly 170 years later no trace has ever been found.

Mark the following symbols in the grid locations and label them on the map.

- Find 14, 2 and draw a tree. **Daring Downs:** This is where Leichhardt left for his expedition to the Northern Territory with 7 men, an enormous load of supplies and a limited number of horses.
- Find 13, 11 and draw three symbols to mark a mountain range. **Expedition Ranges:** Leichhardt led his party across the ridges of these ranges to try and avoid the winds. Eventually, they had to move down the mountains and follow the creek lines to continue on.
- Find 9, 7 and draw 100 circles or rocks. **Short Stony Desert:** This barren landscape in the top corner of South Australia is one of the areas searched for the remains of Ludwig Leichhardt and his expedition party. Due to the harsh dry conditions of Australia's interior some people assumed that Leichhardt and his party died from thirst and exposure.
- Find 10, 7 and draw a series of wavy lines. **McIvor River:** Leichhardt named this river, on his 1844 expedition, after Sir Thomas McIvor who was an explorer and also Surveyor General of NSW.
- Find 9, 11 and draw a series of wavy lines. **Leichhardt River:** This river flows from the Selwyn Ranges to the mouth of Burketown on the coast of QLD. It was not named by Leichhardt but was named after him.