

# Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2014

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **What's Your Story?**

**By Rose Giannone and Artwork by Bern Emmerichs**

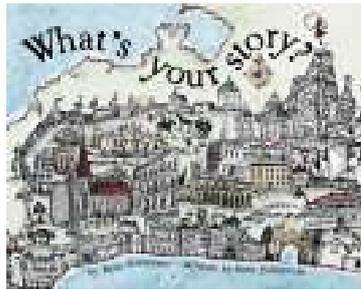
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*"Do you have a story?"*

*Everyone has a story to tell.*

*Australia has a long history with many, many stories."*



Teacher notes taken from those prepared by the publishers, Berbay Publishing.

### Themes:

- Australian History – First European settlement
- Indigenous culture
- Identity
- Friendship
- Cultures
- Nature
- Animals
- Difference

### Discussion Points and Activities:

The author asks us on the first page: "Do you have a story?" All Australians who are not Aboriginal have origins overseas. Create a class project for the children to learn about and discuss their family's stories.

- Write a story or draw a picture about your family story and where your family come from.
- How did your family arrive in Australia and how long ago?
- Why did they come to Australia?
- What was their country of origin like back then?
- What was Australia like when they arrived, and what were their first impressions?

Australia has many interesting and unique plants and animals. Ask the class to name some of each.

• Looking at the list, ask the class what they would think of the animal if they were seeing it for the first time? What would the children think of a kangaroo if they were seeing it for the first time? What about an emu, koala or frilled neck lizard?

• The Europeans introduced animals that Aboriginal people had never seen before. Milba thought a man on a horse was a single creature. Now discuss what the children would think if they saw such creatures for the first time. What would they think of a sheep, a horse or a pig?

Ask the children to find the illustration with the *Friendship* boat, and ask them to describe some of the animals and things they brought to Australia?

Aboriginal people have the oldest continuous culture in the world. They communicate many of their stories across the generations through art, like the cave paintings Milba showed Leonard. Show some examples of Aboriginal art. Ask the class to attempt a drawing or painting in the style of Aboriginal art.

Have the children make emu and dog masks: like the emu and dog races that the Europeans held, organize a class relay race, where one half of the class wear emu masks and the other half wear dog masks. Which animal is faster?

We are all enriched by other people's experiences. Ask the children to name something that another classmate had introduced them to for the first time, or something they had taught them.