

Choose your own inquiry topic

Find out more about your community!

1 Decide on your topic. Choose from one of the ideas below or write your own topic on the line.

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Make a scrapbook of your school's early history.

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Interview an older resident (such as a relative or family friend) about how the community has changed since they first lived there. Record your interview so you can play it to the class.

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Draw a large map of your community on art paper. Include important sites on the map, with information about when each site was built.

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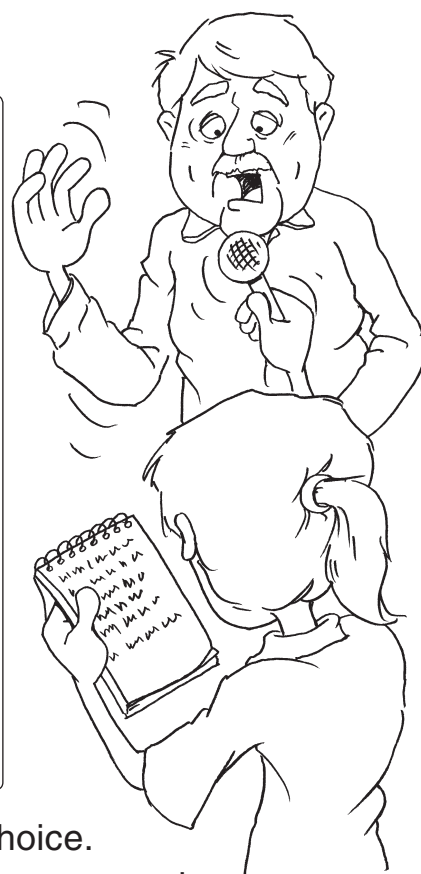
Research a member of your community and write a factual recount (biography) about their lives. Make sure it is someone you haven't researched before.

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Write a narrative about what your community might be like in the future.

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2 Why have you chosen this topic?



3 Take this worksheet to your teacher and explain your choice. Your teacher might be able to help you with ideas for your research.

Teacher signature _____ Date _____

4 Create your presentation.

Factual recount (biography)

A factual recount retells, in time order, events that have already happened.

Mary Ellen Cuper

Mary Ellen Cuper was an Aboriginal woman who was a postmistress (that is, in charge of the post office). She was born in 1847 and she died in 1877. She lived most of her life in New Norcia, Western Australia.

Mary Ellen Cuper became postmistress in 1873. She operated the telegraph machine so that people could send messages to and from her community. She also organised the mail so that people could send letters to and from her community. In 1875, she started training another Aboriginal woman, Sarah Ninak, to work at the post office.

Mary Ellen Cuper died very young, but in her life she provided a valuable and important service for the New Norcia community.

Background
information—WHO the
person was, WHEN
they lived and WHERE
they lived

Events in the person's
life in the order that
they happened

Conclusion about the
importance of the
person