

Our Country: Where History Happened

AUTHOR

MARK GREENWOOD

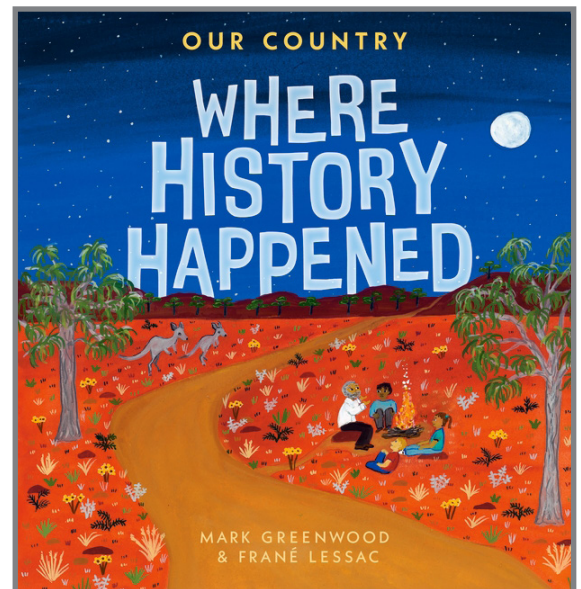
ILLUSTRATOR

FRANÉ LESSAC

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

In every corner of Australia, history happened. The pages of this book are a journey through tens of thousands of years. Our history is recorded in ancient rock art, in the flag flown at the Eureka Stockade, by Burke and Wills' tree. All around our coastline history unfolded in shipwrecks and ship arrivals. Sometimes tragic, often regrettable, always formative, history is commemorated from Tasmania and throughout the mainland at the sites of prisons and massacres. From the birthplace of a new federated nation at the beginning of the twentieth century in Sydney's Centennial Park to Eddie Mabo's struggle for acknowledgement of land rights in the 1990s, history happened all around Our Country.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Greenwood is a history hunter. His award-winning books include *The Legend of Lasseter's Reef* and *The Legend of Moondyne Joe*, both winners of the West Australian Premier's Book Award. Mark often teams with his wife, illustrator Frané Lessac, to produce titles such as *Midnight—the story of a light horse*, *Ned Kelly & The Green Sash* and *Simpson and His Donkey*, a CBCA Honour Book and a USBBY Outstanding International Book. *Jandamarra*, illustrated by Terry Denton, was shortlisted for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature and the West Australian Young Readers' Book Awards. *The Happiness Box*, illustrated by Andrew McLean, was a 2019 CBCA Honour book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator of international renown, having nearly fifty children's books published throughout the world. She was born in the USA and lived on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, as well as in London, before moving to Australia. Frané loves to travel and create books based on her worldwide journeys. She has contributed her distinctive paintings to many critically acclaimed children's picture books including, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* which won the West Australian Premier's Children's Book Award, and *Simpson and His Donkey*, a CBCA Honour Book that was also selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book. In 2019, *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, written by Traci Sorell, was awarded the Robert F. Sibert Honor Book Honor medal, the Orbis Pictus Honor Book medal and the Boston Globe Horn Book Honor medal.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- View the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book

- The author/illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?
- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about.

WHILE READING

Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in this text? eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification. What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story? Do you think the illustrator has effectively told her story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - How do the illustrations add to the story?
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?