



20: Phyllis's story

(Teacher's notes re 20: the Australian landscape have moved to #22.)

teacher's notes

- 1) This is one of two worksheets that have replaced older worksheets in the previous edition of *Footprints* when the third edition was published in October 2020. (The other worksheet that was replaced is #1.)
- 2) The main aim of worksheet is to reveal the history of the ownership of every part of mainland Australia, and the conflict that resulted from the invasion by Europeans that began in the late 18th century.
- 3) The worksheet is designed to elicit a range of reasonable responses without directing students' thinking.

background to artwork

I first saw this painting at an exhibition at the Melbourne University Ian Potter Museum of Art in 2002, called "Blood on the Spinifex". There were a series of paintings by older women telling the stories of first contact in the East Kimberley that they had been told by elders when they were young. I planned to publish this worksheet in the 1st edition, back in 2003, but lost the email from the art centre giving me permission, and was did not get permission again until 2020!

In my view, this painting speaks for itself. The full-colour version does more justice to the Outback Landscape.



additional activities

1) What I have done from time to time with students is organise some graphic photos on a theme, get students to come into a smallish circle, hold up each photo and slowly pass the photos around.

The photo below comes from **Shots** by David Fenton, which is a book of amazing photographs that chronicle various protests in the US in the late '60s and early '70s. (Published by Earth Aware Editions in 2005.)

I have shown this photo in conjunction with Phyllis's painting, and asked students what the two images have in common, who the students identify with, and so on.

2) I have republished on wipeout.com.au a true story that I wrote about my family's adventure in the Kimberley in 1998, which touches on Indigenous resistance to dispossession in the 19th century. It would be suitable for high school students:

<https://www.wipeout.com.au/articles/outback/7-cycling-the-kimberley.html>