21: blood on the poa

suggested answers

1) The squatter & his men were ambushed by aboriginal warriors. The aboriginal women & children ran under the horses' legs to retrieve the spears. Eventually the settlers prevailed.
2) It was remarkable that the women & children risked their lives so courageously to help the warriors.
3) Indigenous Australians felt/feel very passionately about their land, & were/are determined to fight to protect it.
4) The answer here of course will vary. Here is a useful link to begin a search: http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/page/default.asp?site=2&page=TIN_Tribal
5) The aboriginal warriors were very organised. There were relatively large numbers of them & they had sophisticated knowledge of both the terrain & "military" tactics, suggesting that they were practised in repelling incursions by others – mainly other tribes, of course – into their land.

teachers' notes

The title of this worksheet comes from the art exhibition Blood on the spinifex, in which a group of Kimberley artists tell the story of the violent appropriation of their land by white settlers. The point is that this pattern recurred throughout Australia (& the world). (Spinifex is a type of grass found in outback Australia, while native poas are found in southern Australia.)

additional activity

Compare the squatter's account in the worksheet with the indigenous perspective below.

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