

## Task for *Reg Saunders: an Indigenous War Hero*

### Three-level guide

#### The south-west's bloody past

Read the newspaper article [‘The south-west’s bloody past’ by Peter Collins which appeared in the \*Standard\* on 13 May, 2011](#), and then complete this exercise to improve your reading comprehension and to engage with the ideas expressed in this article.

#### Level 1: These are the facts

Put a T for True against those statements which can be found in the extract, although the words may not be the same. Be ready to explain your choices. Otherwise put an F for False.

- ( ) 1. The settlers denied the Aboriginal people access to fresh water and occupied their fishing and hunting areas.
- ( ) 2. Jan Critchett says that whites and Aborigines had rather similar cultures.
- ( ) 3. Many respected families in the Western District of Victoria have ancestors who took part in massacres.
- ( ) 4. The *Portland Mercury* (a newspaper) said that by 1842 the settlers had had enough.
- ( ) 5. The conflicts between whites and Aborigines were all just local skirmishes.

#### Level 2: Drawing conclusions

Put a T for True against those statements which are implied by the author. Be prepared to justify your choice. Otherwise put an F for False against the statement.

- ( ) 1. Conflict comes about from a lack of shared understanding.
- ( ) 2. The settlers thought that they had a legitimate right to defend themselves and their property.
- ( ) 3. The Aborigines could just have left the area and become nomads.
- ( ) 4. The violence between whites and Aborigines escalated over about 30 years.
- ( ) 5. Sins from the past don't have anything to do with the current generation.

**Level 3: Into the world beyond the text**

Put a T for True against those statements that you agree with. Otherwise put an F for False. Be prepared to justify your choice.

- ( ) 1. The Aboriginal guerrilla fighters who fought against the white settlers should be acknowledged as the original Indigenous war heroes.
- ( ) 2. You really can't blame the settlers for protecting their livestock.
- ( ) 3. All Australians today should just get on with their lives and try to forget the bad things that happened in the past.
- ( ) 4. It would be a really good thing if non-Indigenous Australians today had a better understanding of Indigenous culture, history and values.