

Year 5 Drama Assessment Task

Australian Gold Rush Era

You are a successful play writer working for The Australian Theatre Co. and you have a play to write!

An international audience of performers and drama critics is arriving in a few weeks and they are eager to watch a historic Australian play. The theatre president selected the Australian Gold Rush Era as your theme.

You have 4 scenarios to choose from:

1. **Getting to the goldfields:** People leaving their jobs and lives as they knew it and rushing off to the gold fields to try their luck and strike it rich!
2. **Eureka stockade event** – the battle between the miners and the troopers and the election of Peter Lalor
3. **Life on the goldfields** – digging, cleaning, sorting and carting of gold; highs and lows of finding or not finding the gold
4. **Chinese and European miners** – difficulties and hardships of life on the gold fields they would have experienced

Your task is to:

1. Select a scenario from the above list
2. Create characters, setting/s and event/s to best represent your chosen scenario
3. Write the play draft and practice acting it out
4. Make necessary changes
5. Write the final copy of your play and decide on costumes and props
6. Perform and reflect

