Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

Date: _____

AGES 13 TO 16 · ENGLISH AND HISTORY

“Settlement” or “War”?

Content note. This sheet describes frontier war, poisoning and an execution. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that it contains the name of a person who has died.

The words we choose shape how we understand history. The same events can be described very differently depending on whose perspective is told.

Compare the words

A colonial-style word or phrase	Words used in the Nation’s Reading	What changes in how we see the event?
settlement	invasion	
the colony was opened	acts of war	
a criminal was hanged	a prisoner of war was executed	
disturbances	guerrilla warfare	
the natives	the Birin Alliance; the United Tribes	

The colonial-style phrases are examples of the kind of language often found in older histories; the second column uses words from the Yugambeh Nation’s Reading.

Rewrite the headline

> “MORETON BAY OPENED FOR FREE SETTLEMENT”

Rewrite this 1842-style headline from the perspective of the Birin Alliance.

_____

_____

Questions

1. Why do you think the Reading calls 1842 the beginning of an invasion rather than a settlement?

   _____

   _____

2. Why does it matter whose words are used in history books and classrooms?

   _____

   _____