



## 6 Thinking Hats

The author Edward De Bono developed the concept of 'thinking hats' to help people work through complicated situations. We are going to use this concept to think about the Burke and Wills expedition.

### **Task**

Read about the Burke and Wills expedition on the PROV education pages (insert link) and conduct your own text and internet research to answer these questions.

Work in groups of no more than six on one hat colour. You can record your information in several ways, but don't forget to use at least TWO visual images.

First, in your groups, create a model of a hat and stick your answers/images directly onto the hat.

THEN

As a class, create a skit where a visitor (played by a student) walks into a hat shop. Each group persuades the teacher to try on a hat and explain the way it makes you think about the Burke and Wills expedition.

THEN

Rehearse your play and perform it in front of another class or at a school assembly!

### **VELS – History Standards – Level 4**

#### **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**

- ✓ At level 4, students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of significant events in Australian history i.e. the Burke and Wills Expedition.

#### **Historical Reasoning and Interpretation**

- ✓ At level 4, students use a range of primary and secondary sources to investigate the past. With support, they frame research questions and plan their own inquiries. They use appropriate historical language and concepts to develop historical explanations. They present their understandings in a range of forms.



	<p><b>White hat</b></p> <p>Facts Neutral, objective Information</p>	<p>What are the facts of the Burke and Wills expedition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Who were they?</li> <li>▪ What did they set out to achieve?</li> <li>▪ Did they achieve it?</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Red hat</b></p> <p>Emotions Hunches, intuition, gut Feelings</p>	<p>What was the public response to the expedition like before the expedition and after?</p>
	<p><b>Black hat</b></p> <p>Critic Analyst Logical negative</p>	<p>What were the mistakes which Burke and Wills made in their expedition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Were all the people on the expedition the best people for the job?</li> <li>▪ Did they take the right supplies?</li> <li>▪ What did the members of the expedition die of? Could they have avoided dying?</li> <li>▪ What mistakes did they make at the DIG tree?</li> <li>▪ Who was William Wright and why was he blamed for the deaths of Burke and Wills?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Yellow hat</b></p> <p>Sunshine Optimism Logical positive</p>	<p>Burke and Wills are remembered by the people of Victoria as heroes. What are the positive outcomes of their mission?</p>
	<p><b>Green hat</b></p> <p>Creative Growth, possibilities Ideas</p>	<p>Has the Burke and Wills expedition inspired any art, performance, literature or music? Find some examples.</p>
	<p><b>Blue hat</b></p> <p>Cool Agenda, process, organizer Overview, decision</p>	<p>Was the Burke and Wills expedition worth it? What did they contribute to the Europeans' understanding of the Australian landscape?</p>

Hand-coloured photograph of painting of Robert O'Hara Burke by William Strutt. Reproduced courtesy of the Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria. Catalogue reference H24339.

**Script for Hat Shop Skit**

**Set: Interior of a Hat Shop**

*Shop bell rings. Ding ding ding*

*A customer walks into the shop.*

**Shop Keeper:** Good morning Sir/Madam, How can I help you?

**Customer:** Well, I've just been reading this book (*takes book out of bag and holds it up*) about Burke and Wills, the famous Australian explorers and I would really like to know more about their expedition.

**Shop Keeper:** I'm afraid that we only sell hats here. Perhaps you should try the library?

**Customer:** Well, you see, I do have a test this afternoon and I really need the information quite quickly. I've also been reading this other book (*holds up a copy of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'*) and there was this hat in it which you put on your head and it gives you information. I was hoping that you would have something like that in stock.

**Shop Keeper:** Well, we did receive a shipment of coloured hats in yesterday which help you look at things from a variety of perspectives. Perhaps you could ask them to help you to understand the Burke and Wills expedition a bit better?

**Customer:** That sounds good.

**Shopkeeper:** (*Takes a white hat out of a box*) Try this one for size.

**Customer:** (*wearing the white hat*) Alright hat, I want to know all the facts about the Burke and Wills expedition!

THE WHITE HAT GROUP STEPS OUT. THEY ARE ALL WEARING WHITE HATS AND PRESENT A POWERPOINT ON THEIR FINDINGS

**Customer:** Great, great! (*scribbling in a note book*) But how did people feel about the expedition? The white group indicates that they are unsure.

**Shopkeeper:** Perhaps this may suit the occasion slightly better. *Offers the customer a red hat.*

**Customer:** Ok, red hat, talk to me!

RED HAT GROUP PRESENTS THEIR POWERPOINT

**Shopkeeper:** Would you like to take this hat Sir/Madam?

**Customer:** It's nice, but I think that it will clash with my clothes. Do you have something else in a more classic colour?



**Shopkeeper:** How about black? *Puts the hat on the customer's head.*

#### BLACK HAT GROUP ARRIVES AND PRESENTS THEIR POWERPOINT

**Shopkeeper:** What do you think?

**Customer:** Actually I find this hat a little bit depressing. Do you have something a little cheerier?

**Shopkeeper:** Sighs and brings out a yellow hat. There you are sir/madam – guaranteed to keep you cheerful all the day.

#### YELLOW GROUP STEPS FORWARD TO PRESENT POWERPOINT

*The customer starts scratching his/her head throughout the presentation*

**Customer:** This hat is EXTREMELY itchy!

**Shop Keeper:** My apologies Sir/Madam. I believe that my pet cat slept in that last night, he is prone to fleas.

**Customer:** Yuck! Throws hat onto the floor.

**Shop Keeper:** Perhaps you would like to try this one on? It is lined with flea repellent fabric.

**Customer:** Grabs the green hat and slams it onto her/his head. Well that's a relief! But does it know anything about the art which the Burke and Wills expedition has inspired?

Shop Keeper: Well if you just press that button ...

#### GREEN HAT GROUP APPEARS AND PRESENTS THEIR POWERPOINT

**Customer:** *Looking at watch.* Quick! My test is in 10 minutes and I still need to decide whether the expedition was worth it! I need a blue hat.

**Shop keeper:** Empties a toy cat out of a blue hat and hands it to the customer.

**Customer:** *Glares at the cat and has an internal struggle. Will he or she put the hat on? Eventually the customer sprays the hat with flea spray and puts it on.* Quick hat! I need you to summarize the expedition for me!

#### BLUE HATS APPEAR AND SHARE THEIR POWERPOINT

**Shop keeper:** Will that be all sir/madam?

**Customer:** For now. Thanks so much for your help. *Starts to leave.* Actually, I have an exam on Ned Kelly next Tuesday, so I suppose I'll see you then!

*The hats all look at each other, sigh and pull out books on Ned Kelly, which they start reading.*