

YARRI AND JACKY JACKY – HEROES OF THE 1852 GUNDAGAI FLOOD

Read the passage below to answer the questions.

In 1852, Gundagai - a town in New South Wales, found itself inundated with water from weeks of rain and engulfed by a flood. The First Nations People used their on Country knowledge to warn the early settlers not to build their permanent homes in the way of the flood water. They warned them of the dangers but the Europeans believed that they knew better and did not heed the warning.

When the floodwaters rose quickly many people realised their mistake too late and discovered that they were in danger. Two brave Wiradjuri men, Yarri and Jacky Jacky, came to the rescue when they saved 68 people, one third of the town's population, from drowning. Using their strong canoe to save as many people as they could, Yarri and Jacky Jacky paddled through the dangerous waters to save people.

They risked their lives to help others, and their bravery and kindness are still remembered today. Their courage and compassion teach us an important lesson about helping one another in times of trouble, no matter who we are or where we come from.

1 When did the big flood happen in Gundagai?

2 How did Yarri and Jacky Jacky help during the flood?

3 What did Yarri and Jacky Jacky use to rescue people?

4 Why are Yarri and Jacky Jacky considered heroes?

Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge

