

## Kurt Johannsen's Propeller

Suggested follow up activities for students:

1. Discuss how the two propellers differ.

Why would Kurt Johannsen's task of trimming the "good" propeller with a tomahawk, have been enormously risky?

2. Discuss/explain how you think you would have reacted in the same situation.

Remember where the plane landed, the geography of that region and the fact that he was simply flying there on an aerial survey, so he was not carrying supplies or mining tools.

3. Draw the two propellers, after Johannsen had trimmed with a tomahawk and balanced them.

4. Describe how you think Johannsen tested the balance of the propellers. Draw a diagram and label it if you wish.

5. Construct a model of the Tiger Moth aeroplane.

6. Draw and label a map of the Lake Hopkins region.

7. Research: a) Lasseter's Reef

OR

- b) The Afghan camel trains.

## WORKBOOK QUESTIONS

1. Where did Kurt Johannsen live as a child?
2. How did his education differ from the way you are being educated?
3. What level of formal education did he achieve by the time he ceased school at the age of 14?
4. What qualities did he have naturally which resulted in him achieving fame in 1952?
5. What was Kurt Johannsen helping the miners find?
6. What was the purpose of the flight with Jimmy Price?
7. Why did they land at Lake Hopkins saltlake?
8. What caused the end of the propeller to break off?
9. If Kurt had found a suitable piece of Desert Oak, what had he planned to do with it?
10. Describe two actions which prove that Kurt Johannsen was resourceful and inventive.
11. Improvising, means using what is available at the time when you don't have the appropriate items needed. What two items enabled Kurt to improvise and prepare the plane for takeoff?
12. Despite the first attempt to takeoff failing, later in the morning there was a good breeze, so Kurt decided to try again.  
What was the wonderful sight he observed, which made it a possible for him to raise the excessively revving engine from 30 feet above ground, to a safer height of around 1000 feet?
13. Fortunately, his flight was successful. He returned to Mount Lyall Brown, drove to Alice Springs to get another plane and new propeller then returned to rescue Jimmy Prince.  
What sensible action did Jimmy take, to raise his chance of rescue if Kurt had not reached safety in the repaired plane?