

Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery - Ground Floor Primary Years - A4 Student Guide



Principal gallery sponsor

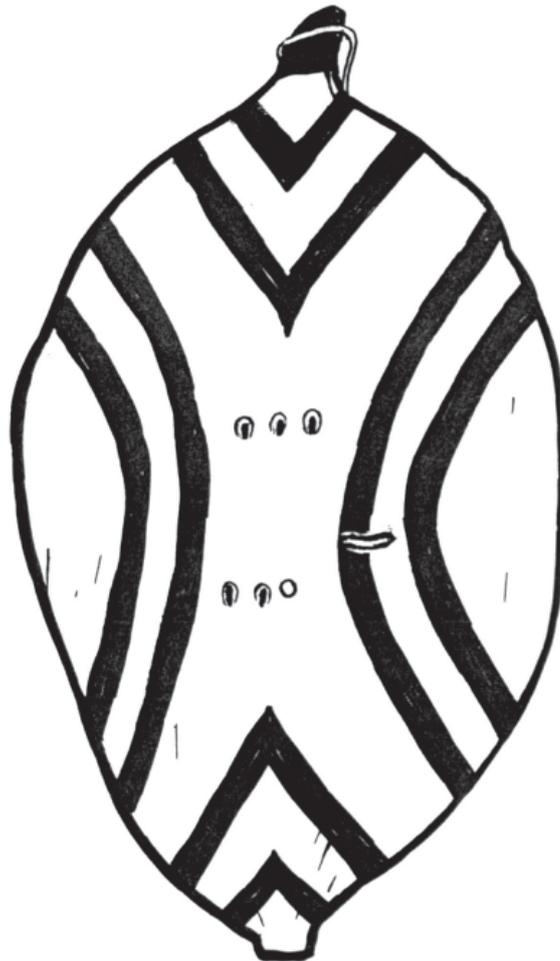


This Outreach Education Program for schools is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department for Education and Child Development. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers who are based in public institutions.

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South Australian Museum Education Program

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Visiting the museum

Student expectations

We would like you, and all our visitors, to enjoy visiting the museum.

- Please stay with your group.
- Walk safely around the exhibitions.
- Share the space with other visitors.
- Talking is an important part of learning. Please remember to use a quiet voice.
- The museum glass cases can get dirty or scratched. Please enjoy looking without touching.
- Please use the stairs and avoid the lifts. (They are slow and are needed by people who can't use the stairs.)
- Help keep the museum clean. Please eat and drink outside on the lawns.



Visiting the museum

Teacher expectations

Bookings are essential for all school visits to the museum.

Please supervise your groups of learners at all times. If your visit involves visiting more than one gallery, divide your class into small supervised groups. Respect the needs of other classes that have booked particular galleries. **Parents must specifically consent to students under 18 participating in activities involving indirect supervision.**

When you arrive please let the staff at the front desk know. If the weather is fine, your students can enjoy the outside lawn area while they wait.

Do not use clipboards with metal backings and clips. For your convenience and for the safety of our exhibits, cardboard backings are available at the front desk.

The coffee shop and the museum shop do not cater for large groups. Small groups can visit, with adult supervision. Bags must not be taken into either shop.

Only students with special needs should use the lifts. (Many students visit the museum and using the lifts would cause excessive delays for people who really need them.)

Unfortunately the museum has limited capacity to store bags. A large crate or two for lunches is easier to keep secure.

Supervisors' bags must be left at the security desk, or be inspected and tagged by the security officers.

Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery

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Find the Adelaide display

You are on Kurna land in Adelaide.

Try saying the name Kurna (Gowr-na) to a friend.

Listen to some of the stories told by Kurna people on the film screen.

Write down one thing you learnt from listening to Kurna people on the film screen.



Josie Aigus,
Adelaide.

Find this old photograph of Ivaritji, an important Kurna woman.

She is wearing a thick cloak to keep her warm.



Ivaritji, Adelaide.

Can you guess what it is made of ?

wool hair wallaby skins

(Circle your answer.)



Look closely at the Kurna shield on display.

Explain how you think the shield was made?

The Kurna name for a shield is _____ (Read the label)

Look closely at the painting of Kadlitpinna, a Kurna elder.

Why do you think he painted a pattern on his shield and on his chest?

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Find the South East display (Past the canoes)

Lakes, rivers and sea

Listen to some of the stories being told by Aboriginal people from the South East region on the film screen.



These Aboriginal people belong to three different groups. Try saying some of their names to a friend.

Ngarrindjeri (nurr-in-jerri)
Boandik (bo-an-dik)
Gunditchmara (goon-dich-mara)

Gathering

Ngarrindjeri people collected food in special coiled baskets. They still make coiled baskets today.

Look at the different coiled baskets in the display.

What are they made from? (Circle your answer.)

wire string sedge (rushes)



Tools for gathering

Walk around to the "Gathering" display.



Ngarrindjeri women used this digging stick to help gather yams and roots.

Draw or write down the names of two other tools used for gathering food.

Tools	Used for gathering....

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Find the South East display

Clubs

In the past all Aboriginal men hunted animals for food. Some men hunted animals using these carved wooden clubs.



Try drawing a few of the clubs on display (opposite the "Gathering" display.)

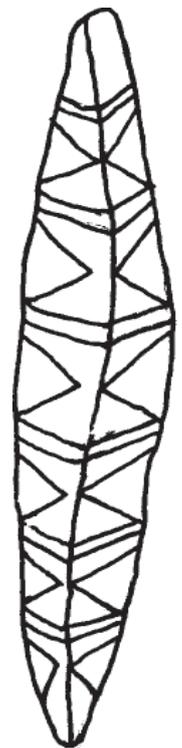
Which animals do you think they hunted with these clubs?

Wood carving

Aboriginal men used carved wooden shields to protect themselves.

Find the shields with long, thin shapes and special patterns.

Copy one of the patterns on the shields.



What kind of tools do you think were used to make these shields?

Talk to a friend about why you think Aboriginal men carved the patterns on their shields. Note down your ideas here.

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Find the MacDonnell Ranges display

Desert Country

Listen to the stories told by Arrernte people from the MacDonnell Ranges on the film screen.



Try saying the name Arrernte (Ar-ern-ta) to a friend.

See if you can find the MacDonnell Ranges on the map near the screen.

What is the main town in this region called?

Doug Abbot, Alice Springs

Dreaming Stories

Arrernte men and women painted the stories of their Dreaming Ancestors on these shields and carrying dishes on display. Some Arrernte people still paint them today.

Tick which Dreaming stories you can find painted on the shields.

Fish Dreaming

Snake Dreaming



Where do you think the Arrernte men and women get their paints from?

Try drawing a story of your own on the shield below.



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Find the MacDonnell Ranges display

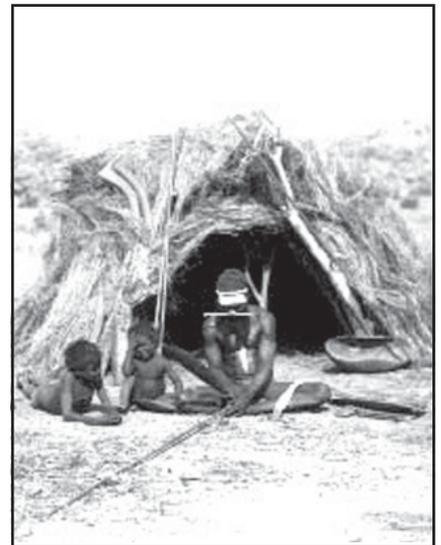
Hunting and Gathering

Look at the photograph of the Arrernte children sitting by their shelter.

Their father is making a hunting spear.

Circle the things you can find in the picture.

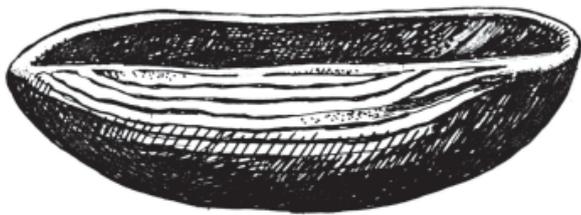
- Spearthrower
- Carrying dish
- Spear
- Boomerang



*Photograph of an Arrernte camp
by F Gillen, 1896.*

Describe their shelter. What is it made from?

Their mother has gone to collect food. She might be using tools like those on display. How do you think she would use them?



This bowl could be used for _____



This digging stick could be used for _____

Find something on display that made it easier to carry a bowl on her head.

What are they made of?

hair wire string and leaves

(Circle your answers.)



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Find the Cooper Diamantina display

Desert Country

Listen to the stories told by Aboriginal people from this country on the film screen.

They belong to three different Aboriginal groups.
Try saying their names to a friend.

Diyari	(Dee-ar-ree)
Wangkangurru	(Wong-kan-gur-ru)
Arabunna	(Ar-ru-bunna)



Reg Dodd,
Finnis Springs.

Write down one thing you learned from listening to these people on the film screen.

Some seeds found in this country are good to eat.
Diyari women collected seeds from trees and grasses.
They ground them up into a special flour for making
damper or cakes.

Can you find something that Aboriginal women used to grind up seeds?
(Behind the boomerang display.)

Try drawing it here.

Estimate how big it is on
your drawing.

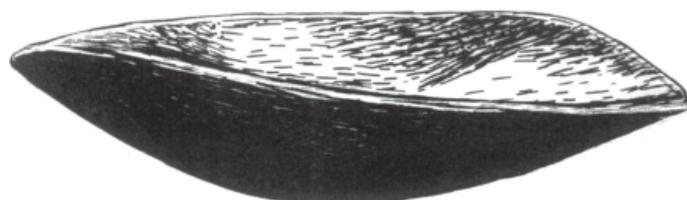


Look inside the very large wooden dish near the grinding tools.
Can you guess what it was used for? (Circle your answers.)

carrying a baby

holding water collecting food

having a bath



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Find the Cooper Diamantina display

Boomerangs

The smaller boomerangs on display are called *kirras* and were made by Wangkangurru and Diyari men.

What do you think they used these boomerangs for? _____

Sometimes the men used big boomerangs called *murrawirri* like clubs. Find this *murrawirri* and estimate how long it is. (Measure it with your steps.)



They also used spears and throwing clubs for hunting. Try drawing them here.

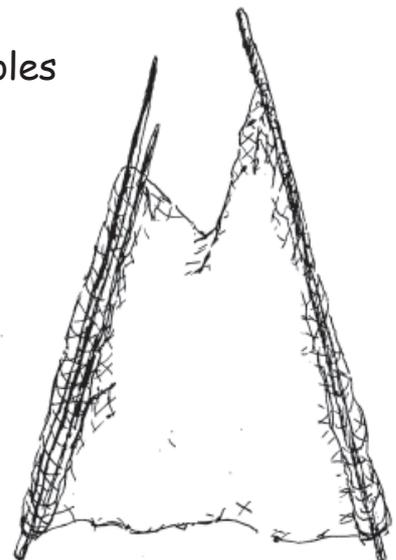
Catching fish

Diyari and Wangkangurru men caught fish in waterholes and creeks.

Find the net they used to catch their fish. (Behind the boomerang display.)

How do think they made this net. _____

_____ Finish this drawing of the net.



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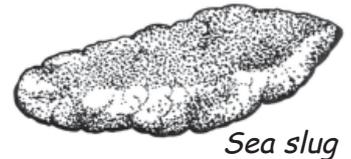
Explore the displays around the walls

Finding Food

For Aboriginal people the environment was once their only supermarket.

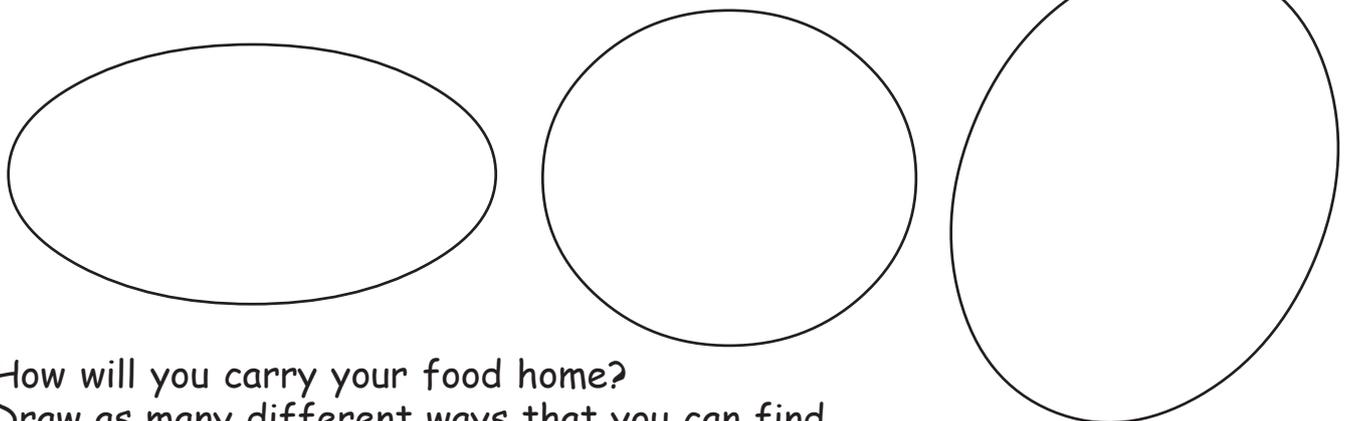
Imagine you are living by a lake, close to the sea or near a river.

Discuss with your group what food you could collect.
Make some lists of possible foods here.



<i>Plant food</i>	<i>Animal food</i>

Try drawing some of the food from your collection.



How will you carry your food home?

Draw as many different ways that you can find.

Don't forget to include your food.

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The past, present and the future

Try answering these questions after looking at the collections of things on display which were used by Aboriginal people from all over Australia!

What do these things tell us about the differences between the past and today?

What is the same about people of the past and people today?

What did Aboriginal groups in the past have in common?

What differences were there between Aboriginal groups in the past?

What were some of the biggest changes between the past and today? What might be the biggest changes in the future?