
Colliding Worlds

Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery, Level G



This booklet has information about Aboriginal people who belong to different language groups in Australia.

Look closely at the photographs of the Aboriginal people near the entrance to the gallery. They belong to different language groups from around Australia. You will discover some of their **artefacts** and **stories** in the gallery.

Planning your museum expedition

Choose your expedition group of four students.

You can choose to be an **explorer, anthropologist, missionary, archaeologist** or an **artist**.

Explore the gallery in your groups. Investigate and record what you discover about the Aboriginal artefacts on display in your notebooks.

An artefact may be a tool or a basket, a boomerang or a spear, or something Aboriginal people have worn in a ceremony.

Use the numbers and labels to find out who collected the artefacts. Share your ideas about how and why they collected them.

Use the **video screens** and **Speaking Land touch screens** to find out more about the Aboriginal people who made the artefacts and how they were used and collected.



Video screen



Speaking Land touch screen

Tindale's map

Look closely at this map made by Norman Tindale, an anthropologist who worked at the Museum.

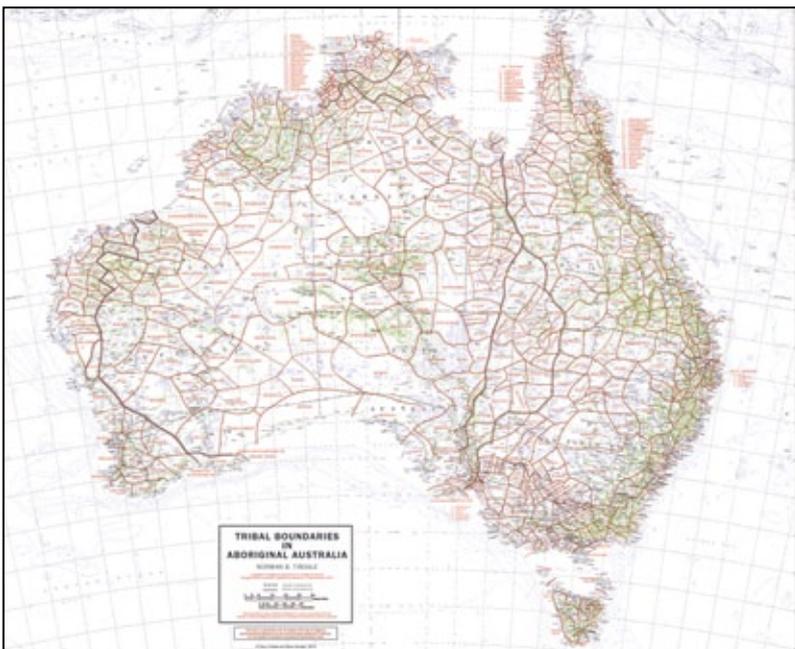
He talked to Aboriginal people from different language groups around Australia and marked the boundaries of their country on this map. It shows you the land which belonged to Aboriginal people when the first European people arrived in Australia.

Find the names of Aboriginal language groups you know who live in South Australia and record them here.



Record the names of two other Aboriginal language groups from South Australia that you did not know.

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Tindale map

Adelaide after 1836

Find the display about Kurna people from the Adelaide Plains (near the canoes).

Most of the artefacts in this display were made by Kurna people. Look closely at the painting made by the artist George French Angas in 1844.



Kadlitpinna



List four things Kadlitpinna is carrying or wearing that tell you he was an important Kurna person.

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Next to the painting of Kadlitpinna, you will find a display of tools and food remains left behind at a Kurna campsite or midden.



Describe three things that tell you about life for the Kurna people before the arrival of the Europeans.

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Adelaide after 1836

Find the paintings in the book on display made by the artist George French Angas showing the Kuri and Palti dance.



Kuri and Palti dance

Look closely at the paintings.



Talk about why you think the Kurna people performed these ceremonies.

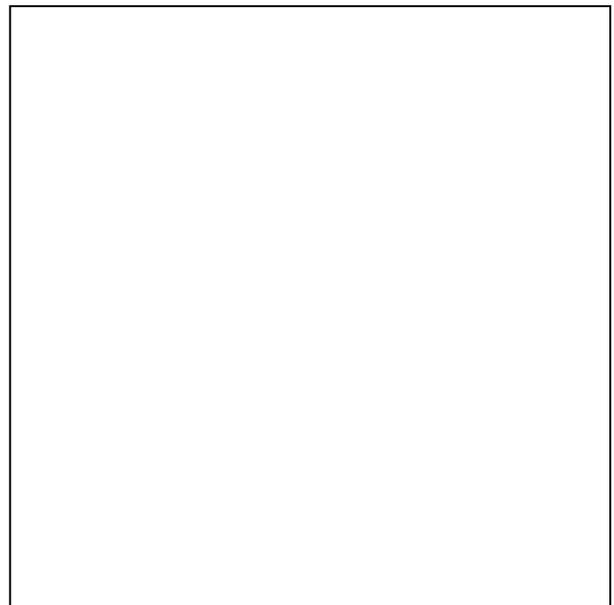
Find the Kurna shield or Wokali in the flat case nearby. Ask the anthropologist in your group to read out some of Mr Stephen's report (in the flat case) about the fight between Aboriginal people from the Murray River and the Kurna people in the Adelaide region.



Talk about why you think they were fighting.



Draw the Wokali and the design painted on it.



South East: Hunting and Gathering

Walk around the hunting and gathering display. Find these artefacts made by Ngarrindjeri people.



Karloan's war basket



Ngarrindjeri basket



Write your own labels to explain how Ngarrindjeri people made and used these baskets.

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Look closely at the video screens in the display.



Talk about how life has changed for the Aboriginal people from south-eastern Australia. What has stayed the same?

Living in the MacDonnell Ranges

Walk around the MacDonnell Ranges display. Look closely at the tools made by the Arrernte and Luritja people in Central Australia between 1890 and 1904. Use the labels to find out what they were used for and who collected them.



Arrernte camp

Compare this ‘posed’ photograph taken by Frank Gillen in 1896 showing a ‘typical Arrernte family’ with the one on display.

Who is missing from the photo on display?



Talk about what the Arrernte man, women and children are doing while in their camp.



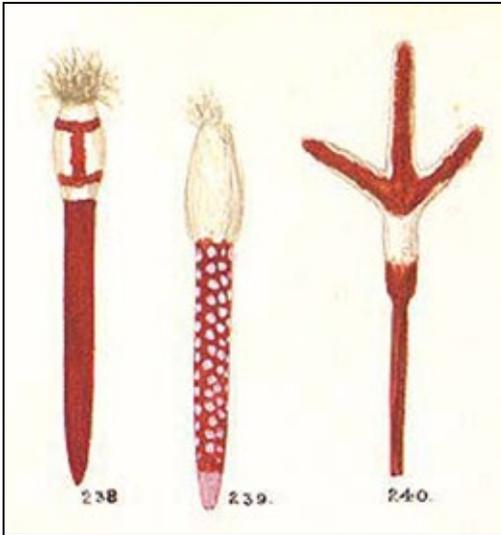
Namatjira’s spearthrower

Find this spearthrower painted by Albert Namatjira near the Arrernte shields.



Share your ideas about why the artwork on Namatjira’s spearthrower is so different to the designs on the Arrernte shields.

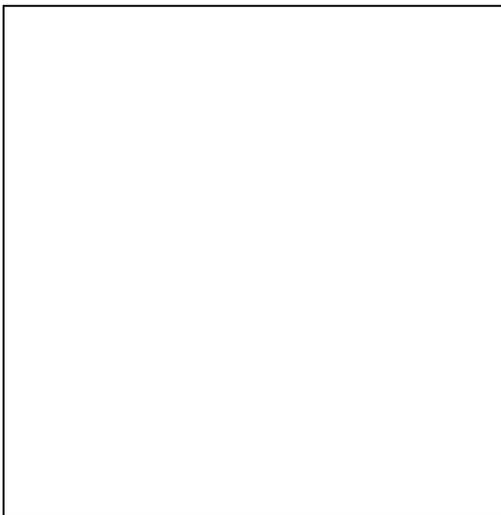
Cooper Diamantina: Desert Dreamings



Find the toas or ‘sign posts’ on display. These toas were made by Aboriginal people from the desert country in north-eastern South Australia.

Each toa tells a story about places visited by their **Dreaming Ancestors** as they travelled across their country.

Hillier’s watercolour sketch of toas



Draw the top of your favourite toa here.



Record the name of the Dreaming Ancestor and what it means.

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Choose one person in your group to read out the label for their toa. Record the story with your flip video camera.

Share your ideas about why you think the Aboriginal people who lived at the mission made these toas for the missionaries.

Ceremonies and Celebrations

Watch the **Cooper Diamantina** video screen and listen to Aboriginal people in north-eastern South Australia telling you about their histories.



Women's girdles or *mandmanga*

Look closely at the Ceremony display.

Find three artefacts that prove the Diyari and neighbouring tribes performed their ceremonies **after** the arrival of explorers, settlers and missionaries.

Read the labels.



Talk about how these artefacts were worn and used in their ceremonies.

Find the artefacts **behind the big boomerang case** used by Aboriginal people to catch fish, grind seed and carry water.



Describe how they were used to solve these problems.

- catch fish:
- grind seed:
- carry water:

Stone tools and a long history

Find the display about **Stone tools and Antiquity**. Walk through the display and investigate how long Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived in Australia. Record your discoveries below.

Rock art

Look closely at the paintings made by Aboriginal people on cave walls with a friend in your group. Talk about how you think these paintings were made.



What do they tell you about how Aboriginal people lived in Australia a long time ago?

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Really old tools

Find the oldest hunting tool on display made by Aboriginal people.



What tools do we use today to do the same jobs?

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How do scientists know these tools were made a long time ago?

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Ceremonial Masks



Look at the masks hanging on the wall near the entrance to the gallery. This group of tin masks made by Aboriginal people from Western Australia were found left on the ground in 1953 at Port Hedland.

Tindale masks



Discuss

Talk about what you think these masks were used for. What are they made from?



Write

Draw your own mask here.

What have I learned?



List two things that you have learned about what happened when Aboriginal people met explorers, missionaries, artists, anthropologists or scientists.

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Write down the names of two Aboriginal artefacts you have discovered on display and explain what they were used for.

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This program for schools is made possible through the partnership between the Department for Education and Child Development and the South Australian Museum. It is part of Outreach Education, a team of DECD educators seconded to public organisations.

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