



Dandiiri Maiwar

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre

Resources for Teachers

<http://www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/dandiiri/teachers/index.asp>

Framework for developing a unit of work



Use the Bookmarks in this document to jump to each section. (In Adobe Acrobat, click the Bookmarks tab or go to the View menu, select Navigation Tabs and then select Bookmarks.)

What makes Dandiiri Maiwar unique?

Queensland Museum South Bank houses and cares for a large and extensive collection of Queensland Indigenous **artefacts and objects**, ranging from the long ago times to the present day. The artefacts and objects are then **brought to life** through the **diverse stories, experiences and perspectives of the people** who own them.

What content should be included?

Aboriginal cultures

- The “**Dreaming**” is a **world view** and is only used amongst Aboriginal language groups with each group having their own of expressing this world view.
- The Dreaming should be explained by an appropriate Aboriginal person.
- Aboriginal people are the **original occupants** of this continent.
- Aboriginal cultures are **diverse, living cultures**. All groups participated in trade.
- Different **geographical locations** and availability of resources helped shape lifestyles.
- The **invasion** and **colonisation** of Australia had a devastating effect on the Aboriginal people of Australia. The effects are continuing today.
- Aboriginal people **resisted invasion**.
- Aboriginal social structures are **complex**, and defined each person’s **rights and responsibilities**.
- Aboriginal concept of land and sea ownership is different to that of Western culture.

Torres Strait Islander cultures

- Torres Strait Islanders are the **original occupants of these islands**.
- Torres Strait Islanders are proud of their **separate and distinct cultures**.
- Torres Strait Islander **social structures are complex**. The kinship structure ensures that everyone knows their role in society and everyone is **valued**.
- **Meriam Mir** and **Kala Lagaw Ya** are the **two distinct languages** of the Torres Strait.
- Torres Strait Islander concept of land and sea **ownership** is different to that of Western culture.

What should students be doing in the learning environment?

- Investigating
- Communicating
- Creating meaning
- Participating
- Reflecting and Evaluating

What resources and terminology are appropriate?

- Appropriate resources and terminology are an essential part of any program.
- Up-to-date information about [evaluating resources](#) and [appropriate terminology](#) can be found in the For Teachers section of the Dandiiri Maiwar website.

What areas of the curriculum are appropriate?

Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies can be implemented as:

- a discrete course/subject;
- units within other subjects; and
- across the curriculum in each of the Key Learning Areas.

How will learning be evaluated?

- How did **Dandiiri Maiwar** facilitate students' learning?
- Did students **demonstrate** an increased **knowledge** and **understanding of** and **respect for**, Aboriginal cultures, experiences, perspectives and lifestyles and Torres Strait Islander cultures, experiences, perspectives and lifestyles?
- How did **Indigenous** students **respond** to the learning experiences?

Who will be involved?

- **Consult** with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **community members** or organisations (i.e. housing co-ops, medical centres, etc).
- Consult with Aboriginal personnel and Torres Strait Islander personnel **within** the school.
- **Include** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of programs.
- **Negotiate** and develop students learning activities with the students themselves.

Why should students learn this area of knowledge?

“Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies will challenge the thinking of all students and assist them to develop their understanding of themselves and the Australian community/society.”

Qld Dept. Education (1995) Draft Pre-school to Year Twelve Guidelines and Framework *“The Teaching of Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Queensland Schools.”*

The **Adelaide Declaration on National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-first Century** states that:

Schooling should be socially just, so that:

- **3.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** students have equitable access to, and opportunities in, schooling so that their learning outcomes improve and, over time, match those of other students.
- **3.4 All students** understand and acknowledge the **value** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to Australian society and possess the knowledge, skills and understanding to contribute to, and benefit from, reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.