

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HISTORIES AND CULTURES

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
learners first

LIVING CULTURES – MUTTONBIRDING

YEAR 1

The
Orb

MUTTONBIRDING**WHAT IS A MUTTON BIRD?**

Using the resource, *Mutton Birds and Birding* and the 'Living Cultures – Muttonbirding' section of The Orb, learners explore the characteristics and behaviours of the mutton bird and understand the importance of mutton birds to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures***Organising idea 2*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities maintain a special connection to and responsibility for Country/Place.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS**Science**

Students explain the significance of an event/development, an individual and/or group.

They identify and describe continuities and changes for different groups in the past and present. They describe the causes and effects of change on society. They compare the experiences of different people in the past.

CONTENT DESCRIPTORS**Science****Biological sciences:**

Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves (ACSSU030).

Use and influence of science:

People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (ACSHE035).

GENERAL CAPABILITIES**Critical and Creative Thinking**

Inquiring – identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas

Identify and clarify information and ideas

Level 2 – identify and explore information and ideas from source materials

Intercultural Understanding

Reflecting on intercultural experiences and taking responsibility

Reflect on intercultural experiences

Level 2 – identify and describe what they have learnt about others from intercultural encounters and culturally diverse texts

Learning Goals

Learners will:

- » Describe key events in the life of the mutton bird.
- » Understand the importance the mutton bird has for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- » Identify areas in Tasmania where mutton birds make their burrows.
- » Describe the environmental conditions required for mutton bird to breed.

Learning Sequence**Activating and Engaging**

Story Sharing

Read the big books as a class: *Mutton birds*, *Mutton Bird Life* and *At the Mutton Bird Rookery* from *Mutton Birds and Birding*; a Tasmanian Aboriginal Education Resource.

Discuss the characteristics of a mutton bird.

Ask students:

- » What do the birds do when they are in the rookery?
- » Where do the mutton birds go when they migrate?
- » What is another name for the mutton bird?
- » Are there any dangers for the mutton birds?
- » What makes the mutton bird important to Aboriginal people?

Exploring and Discovering

Community Links

Have students visit the *ningina tunapri* exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery with an Aboriginal guide or member of the Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge program to explore the model of a mutton bird rookery.

Ask learners:

- » What does a rookery, a burrow and a mutton bird:
 - » look like?
 - » feel like?
 - » sound like?
 - » smell like?”
- » How important are mutton birds to Aboriginal people?

Ask learners to:

- » Draw an image of a mutton bird and its burrow.
- » Describe in pairs the features of a mutton bird.
- » Identify and describe one danger that faces the mutton bird chick.
- » Explain to their partner the importance of mutton birds to Aboriginal people.

Non-verbal

Land Links

Have learners visit a beach or area of sand.

Ask them to make a three dimensional model of a mutton bird burrow and chick using a range of materials made available for the task.

Have learners:

- » Describe the features of their model.
- » Explain their choices of construction.
- » Explain their understandings of the characteristics of the mutton bird and its nesting habitat.
- » Make comparisons between the needs of a mutton bird chick and that of other living things.

View *Connection* from the ‘Living Cultures – Muttonbirding’ section of The Orb.

Watch the clips to hear how deeply connected Aboriginal people are to the life and existence of the mutton bird.

Ask learners:

- » What do you hear the people on the video saying about their connection to the mutton bird?
- » What is being said about the importance of the mutton bird to them?

Synthesising and Applying

Deconstruct-Reconstruct

Have learners compare the mutton bird life cycle with that of other living beings.

Ask learners:

- » What similarities and differences are there between their own life cycle and that of the mutton bird?

- » What environmental changes might affect the mutton bird in the future?
- » What actions can be taken to protect the mutton bird in the future?

Success Criteria

Learners:

- » Explain the characteristics of a mutton bird.
- » Describe the life cycle of the mutton bird.
- » Describe the importance the mutton bird is to Tasmania Aboriginal people.
- » Describe the uses and purpose of the mutton bird for Aboriginal people.
- » Describe the relationship between Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the mutton bird.

Resources

- » [The Orb](#)
- » [Australian Curriculum](#)
- » [Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge \(ASK Program\) Guidelines](#)
- » [Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge \(ASK Program\) Application Form](#)
- » The Aboriginal Education Library: email Aboriginal.education.library@education.tas.gov.au or telephone 03 6165 5480 for more resources, including the ones listed below.
- » The Eight-way Framework of Aboriginal Pedagogy
- » *Circle*, Jeannie Baker, 2016
- » *Return to the Islands [kit] : the story of Aborigines and the tradition of muttonbirding*, Department of Education, Tasmania
- » DVD – *The Big Dog Connection*, Aboriginal Education Services, Tasmania
- » [TMAG Online Resources](#)
- » *Mutton Birds and Birding*; a Tasmanian Aboriginal Education Resource
- » *On the Track*, Department of Education, Tasmania

Glossary

Burrow

A hole in the ground dug by an animal such as a rabbit, especially to live in. C

Life Cycle

The series of changes in the life of an organism including reproduction. G

Migrate

(Of an animal, typically a bird or fish) move from one region or habitat to another according to the seasons. D

Mutton bird

A shearwater or petrel of the southern oceans. D

C Cambridge Dictionary

D Dictionary.com

G General understanding



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