

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HISTORIES AND CULTURES

LIVING CULTURES – SHELL STRINGING

YEAR 1

The
Orb

SHELL STRINGING

TIDAL ZONE

Using the resources: *kanalariitja: An Unbroken String*, and *Cultural Jewels*, and the ‘Living Cultures – Shell Stringing’ section of The Orb, learners explore the identification, characteristics and growing conditions of shells used by Tasmanian Aboriginal shell stringers and understand the importance of shells 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:

- » Identify and describe shells used by Tasmanian Aboriginal stringers.
- » Understand the importance shell stringing has for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- » Identify coastal areas in Tasmania where shells and shellfish occur.
- » Describe the environmental conditions required for shellfish to thrive in Tasmania.

Learning Sequence

Activating and Engaging

Learning Maps

Have learners watch the DVD *Cultural Jewels* and examine the *Cultural Jewels* visual resource.

Discuss the identification and characteristics of shells used by Tasmanian Aboriginal shell stringers.

Ask learners to identify and describe:

- » a mollusc
- » a gastropod
- » a bivalve.

Ask learners what characteristics might make shells important to Aboriginal people.

Using the Identification Guide in the *Cultural Jewels guide* for teachers and the visual images in the *Cultural Jewels* resource, have learners write, draw and match images to describe and classify the shells used by stringers.

Ask learners to refer to the shells by the names used by the stringers such as Toothies, Oat Shells, Penguins, Gull Shells, Black Crows, maireeners and Cockles.

Exploring and Discovering

Community Links

Land Links

Have students visit a beach with an Aboriginal community person, or member of the Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge (ASK) program to explore the tidal zone where shells occur.

Ask learners:

- » What make tidal zones important for shell to grow and thrive?
- » What conditions do the shells need?
- » How might changes to climate affect tidal zones?
- » What do shell gatherers look for when they want to collect shells?

Symbols and Images

Have learners create a beach environment using a combination of natural materials depicting tidal zones and types of sea animals that occur in them.

Have learners:

- » describe the features of their model beach and tidal zone
- » explain their understandings of the characteristics of living shells and their habitat
- » make comparisons between the needs of sea animals in tidal zones and that of another living thing that is familiar to them.

Story Sharing

View *Cultural Evolution and Hidden Gem* from the 'Living Cultures – Shell Stringing' section of The Orb.

Watch the clips to hear how connected Aboriginal people are to shells and shell stringing.

Ask learners:

- » What do you hear the people on the video saying about their connection to shell stringing?
- » What is being said about the importance of shell stringing and the making of shell necklaces?

Synthesising and Applying

Deconstruct-Reconstruct

Have learners present their model beach illustrating a tidal zone.

Ask learners:

- » What conditions are needed for shells to live successfully in the tidal zone?
- » What environmental changes might affect the occurrence of shells?

- » How are Tasmanian Aboriginal people making sure that there are plenty of shells for future stringers?

Success Criteria

Learners:


- » Demonstrate their understanding by identifying and describing the shells used by Tasmanian Aboriginal shell stringers.
- » Describe their understanding of the importance of shell stringing for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- » Describe and identify coastal areas in Tasmania where shells and shellfish occur.
- » Demonstrate their understanding of the environmental conditions required for shellfish to thrive in Tasmania.

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
- » Various, 2016, *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
- » TMAG online resource: [kanalaritja: An Unbroken String](#)
- » Visual Resource: *Cultural Jewels [kit]: Tasmanian Aboriginal Shell Collecting and Stringing*, 2010, Department of Education Tasmania

Glossary

Shell stringing

Shell-stringing was (and remains) a painstaking process, requiring knowledge of coastal resources as well as great skill and patience. 



National Museum Australia



State of Tasmania (Department of Education)
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