

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HISTORIES AND CULTURES

LIVING CULTURES – SHELL STRINGING

YEAR 3

The
Orb

SHELL STRINGING

FAMILY AND KINSHIP

Learners use the *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String* resources and the 'Living Cultures – Shell Stringing' section of The Orb to identify and appreciate the importance of Aboriginal peoples' family and kinship structures. They explore, describe and identify key characteristics of Aboriginal peoples' family connections

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.

Organising idea 8

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' family and kinship structures are strong and sophisticated.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Students identify individuals, events and aspects of the past that have significance in the present. They identify and describe aspects of their community that have changed and remained the same over time.

They describe the diverse characteristics of different places at the local scale and identify and describe similarities and differences between the characteristics of these places. They identify connections between people and the characteristics of places.

CONTENT DESCRIPTORS

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

The importance of Country/Place to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples who belong to a local area (ACHASSK062).

How the community has changed and remained the same over time and the role that people of diverse backgrounds have played in the development and character of the local community (ACHASSK063).

GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Intercultural Understanding

Reflecting on intercultural experiences and taking responsibility

Reflect on intercultural experiences

Level 3 – identify and describe what they have learnt about themselves and others from real, virtual and vicarious intercultural experiences

Ethical Understanding

Understanding ethical concepts and issues

Recognising ethical concepts

Level 3 – identify ethical concepts, such as equality, respect and connectedness, and describe some of their attributes

Learning Goals

Learners will:

- » Identify the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who discuss the importance of family in *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String* and the 'Living Cultures – Shell Stringing' section of The Orb.
- » Describe the meaning of kinship structures and explain their significance for Aboriginal people.
- » Describe and identify key characteristics of Aboriginal peoples' family connections.
- » Describe, identify and illustrate key characteristics of their own family connections.

Learning Sequence

Activating and Engaging

Community Links

Have learners examine the following article on family and kinship to share understanding with the class.

This could be done by:

- » read/studying short sections in groups
- » have teachers/s read to groups or whole class
- » have learners listen to recordings of sections of the article.

Family and kinship

Aboriginal kinship and family structures bind Aboriginal people together.

Aboriginal kinship and family structures are still cohesive forces which bind Aboriginal people together in all parts of Australia. They provide psychological and emotional support to Aboriginal

people even though they create concern among non-Aboriginal people who would prefer Aborigines to follow European social preferences for nuclear families with few kinship responsibilities. Aboriginal family obligations, often seen as nepotism by other Australians, may be reflecting cultural values, involving kinship responsibilities. p100

When Aborigines refer to their family they invariably mean their extended family.

When Aborigines refer to their family they invariably mean their extended family which might include parents, several children, numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, and grandparents. These family members can be both genetic and classificatory. It is the kinship ties which determine a person's rights, responsibilities and behaviour.

Aboriginal kinship ties, values, beliefs, identity and language are maintained by the family. The continuance of Aboriginal society is dependent on keeping Aboriginal families strong and healthy both physically and culturally. p119

Source: Extracts taken from: *Family and Kinship* by Colin Bourke and Bill Edwards

Introduce learners to the extracts from the article *Family and Kinship*.

Have learners:

- » discuss the concepts of family and kinship
- » explore reasons family may be important to Aboriginal people
- » explore reasons Aboriginal people's connection to family may differ from that of other Australians
- » compare what they currently understand about family with new understandings described in the article.

Learning Maps

View the 'Living Cultures – Shell Stringing' section of The Orb and the *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String* DVD and print resource.

Ask learners to:

- » identify the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who discuss the importance of family in *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String* and the 'Living Cultures – Shell Stringing' section of The Orb
- » describe what they learn about family from those people
- » describe and identify key characteristics of Aboriginal peoples' family connections
- » create a visual image or diagram illustrating the people from The Orb and *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String* resources and what they tell us about their connection to family

- » examine the image or diagram to look for commonalities and themes in what Aboriginal people are telling us about their family and kinship structures.

Exploring and Discovering

Community Links

Invite a member of the Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge (ASK) program into the classroom.

Complete the general learning task: *Listening and Telling* located in the 'Illustrations of Practice' section of The Orb.

Have learners pose questions that:

- » focus on the interviewee's connection to family
- » compare with learners' own experience of family
- » compare the interviewee's experience with that of the people appearing on the Shell Stringing clips of the Orb
- » focus on experiences and events leading to any loss of the interviewee's family.

Discuss the concepts of family and kinship in the light of the class interview.

Ask learners:

- » How might a connection to family enhance the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people?
- » What might we all learn from Aboriginal people about the importance of spiritual connection to kinship and family?

Synthesising and Applying

Deconstruct–Reconstruct

Have learners communicate and present their ideas, findings and conclusions about family and kinship and its significance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people in oral, visual and written forms.

Success Criteria

Learners:

- » Describe and identify the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who discuss the importance of family in *kanalaritja* and the 'Living Cultures – Shell Stringing' section of The Orb.
- » Demonstrate their understanding of the meaning of kinship structures and explain their significance for Aboriginal people.
- » Illustrate and identify key characteristics of Aboriginal peoples' family connections.
- » Identify, describe and illustrate key characteristics of their own family connections.

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
- » Bourke C and Edwards B, *Family and Kinship in Aboriginal Australia*, An Introductory Reader in Aboriginal Studies, Second Edition (Edited by Bourke, Bourke and Edwards), 1998, 2004, University of Queensland Press

Glossary

Family and Kinship

Aboriginal kinship and family structures are still cohesive forces which bind Aboriginal people together in all parts of Australia. NSW IA

Shell stringing

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

NMA National Museum Australia

NSW IA NSW Indigenous Australia self-study module



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