

Indigenous Perspectives in Geography

Geography – Making a Difference for Australia

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Aboriginal Perspectives

– Why is it a priority?

- Australia has a black history and it is our role as educators to appropriately teach and embrace our history
- Dispel the many racial and stereotypical myths still circulating in the wider Australian community today
- National Curriculum
- Pass on Aboriginal knowledge to future generations of young Australians and show that Aboriginals do have knowledge
- Help maintain our land

“Indigenous content does not always equal Indigenous perspectives”

- Is there Aboriginal knowledge to incorporate in this topic?
- Are there Aboriginal opinions and viewpoints to incorporate in this topic?
- Are there Aboriginal people who are important to this topic?
- Are there Aboriginal versions of events relating to this topic?
- Are there particular obligations and responsibilities relating to this topic?
- Are there Aboriginal priorities and aspirations relevant to this topic?

Planning a Program

- What are the needs of the students?
- What data are you starting with?
- How could community assist in these needs?
- What hidden talents are there in the community?
- How are you going to find out?
- How can the school incorporate these skills into programs which benefit the students and the school?
- How are you going to assess the success of your programs?

Yarning Strong

“This material has been compiled by Aboriginal educators;

Designed to support non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers feel confident to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across all learning areas;

The material will also serve as a reference to dispel the many racial and stereotypical myths still circulating in the wider Australian community today”

Source: Yarning Strong: Professional Support, Oxford Literacy Project

What is involved in Yarning Strong?

- Designed to reach out to young people between 10-16 years old to deepen their awareness and understanding about what it has been like to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person living in Australia
- Dispel misconceptions
- Guided classroom discussion about sensitive matters
- All the novels are written by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
- Professional support

Source: Yarning Strong: Professional Support, Oxford Literacy Project

Common Ground

An Indigenous community coming together
to fight for land rights

Board of Studies NSW: Geography Syllabus
Stage 5: Changing Australian Communities

LAND: RELATIONSHIPS

This presentation contains images and words of Aboriginal people who are now deceased.

Caution is advised when viewing.

Factors that contribute to the community's sense of identity

- The “common” described as “*the only land for miles and miles with water*”. This can open discussions about the importance of water to Indigenous communities.
- Knowledge of the land, uses of the land
- Connection to the land
 - Spiritual (Dreaming)
 - Economic (hunting and gathering)
 - Political (role of elders)
 - Social (kinship)

The fires
should never
happen.



land

Ganandoran

land

Factors causing change in the community

- Infrastructure and growth on traditional land
- Settlement vs. Invasion

Mona Mona Mission, Queensland



land

Individuals, groups and levels of government involved in the process of change

- Uses of land – farming / pastoral / abattoir
- Mabo
- Non-Indigenous community in “Common Ground” resisting Native Title

Community responses to change



land

*Purpose, structure and actions of
community groups responding to
change*

Welcome to Canberra
Ngunnawal Country

SISTER CITY OF
Nara, Japan
Beijing, China
FRIENDSHIP CITY OF
Dili, East Timor



FLORIADE
ACCESS VIA
COMMONWEALTH AVE

land

Implementing perspectives

- Students as teachers
- Local elders
- Community
- Field trips

Recommended resources

- <http://indigitube.com.au>
- [http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/
CrossCurriculumPriorities/Aboriginal-and-Torres-
Strait-Islander-histories-and-cultures](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/CrossCurriculumPriorities/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-histories-and-cultures)
- [http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/
services/eatsips.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/services/eatsips.html)
- www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au
- <http://8ways.wikispaces.com/>
- www.reconciliation.org.au