Aboriginal teaching resources

Hot topics

Arts and crafts of Indigenous Australia by Linda Bruce and Jim Hilvert-Bruce. South Yarra, Vic: Macmillan Education Australia, 2009. 704 BRU

“Written in a friendly and engaging style, this book offers a fascinating insight into how Indigenous Australians maintain their culture and provides a rich resource on the many different art forms.” – Back cover. Includes ‘make your own’ student activities. For primary school students.

Aboriginal stories. 3rd edition. South Yarra, Vic: Macmillan Education Australia, 2014. 428.6 BAR

A collection of 7 volumes of Aboriginal stories for middle – upper primary students. Teachers’ guide available.

Blackline masters [series] by Cathie Burgess and Julie Myers. Cengage Learning Australia, 2011. 305.89 BUR

Each title includes overviews of a subject, a glossary, a ‘Know your facts’ quiz, and activity sheets. The books are aimed at upper primary and secondary students. The activities have a strong literacy focus and are helpful for senior secondary students having difficulty with writing skills. The titles, which can be borrowed individually, are Colonisation, Health, Invasion, Land, Land rights, Performing arts, Please explain, Protests, Reconciliation and Stolen generations.


This account of 1965’s Freedom Ride provides a background to the protest, descriptions of the key people involved, a graphic (i.e. cartoon) retelling of the story, a section on its effects, and classroom activities. For primary school students.


There are two kits. The middle primary pack contains nine 24-page books and a teacher resource; the upper primary kit has nine 32-page books and a teacher resource. Each item can be borrowed individually. “[A] comprehensive resource that aims to inform primary students about Australia’s Indigenous history ... A variety of primary sources – such as letters, interviews, maps and paintings – are used to tell the stories. Focus questions accompany each story.” – p. 5.

Focus on Indigenous art across the curriculum [three books: ages 5-8, ages 8-10, and ages 10+]. Macmillan Teaching Resources, 2006. 704.039 STR

These teacher resource books contain integrated, planned and sequential art units. Note: each of the items can be borrowed separately.

From ochres to eel traps: Aboriginal science and technology resource guide for teachers edited by Helen Halling. Canberra: Science Educators Association of the ACT, 1999. 305.89 FRO

This book contains short chapters on the history and usage of: art pigments, boomerangs, womera, natural resins and gums, separation of poisons from edible plants, bush foods, stone tool technology, Aboriginal inventors, bush medicine, specific uses of technology in a community, seasonal calendars, games and toys, and firesticks. Includes classroom activities.


These joyful, catchy songs are for early childhood and lower primary students. CD and teacher resource book available.


There are four series of books. Series 1 comprises 11 books and a teachers’ guide. Series 2 consists of 9 books, a teachers’ guide, an audio CD (raps), and a 10-minute film (Nan and Dad and me at the zoo). Series 3 contains 9 books and a teachers’ guide. Series 4 contains 10 books and an audio CD. Each teachers’ guide includes cultural notes, lesson plans and blackline masters. For primary and junior secondary students, with the reading levels of the books in each series ranging from Level 1 to Hard.


This book is written from an Indigenous perspective and contains a range of activities. “[T]opics covered include: history, culture, arts, sport, languages, population, health, participation in education and the workforce, governance, resistance and reconciliation.” – Back cover. The book’s website includes downloadable PDFs relating to each of the book’s four chapters as well as notes for teachers. http://lyrb.aiatsis.gov.au/
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Reconciliation [lower, middle, and upper primary kits]. Scholastic, 2002-2003. 305.89 REC

Reconciliation incorporates an Indigenous perspective into the primary curriculum. There are 33 student titles, 3 CDs and 3 teacher resource books. All items can be borrowed individually. Check the Library catalogue for further details.


“This book is the result of many experiences and conversations between the early childhood educators who have inscribed their pages with their yarns, stories and narratives.” – Publisher website.


These series contain, in total, 38 short novels, 7 CDs of audio books, and two professional support manuals. The stories are arranged thematically, under the broad headings of identity, family, land and law. One series is aimed years 3-4, the other at years 5-6. Each item can be borrowed individually. For full details, type in yarning strong in the Library catalogue.

STORIES FOR CHILDREN


The author wrote most of these poems to support literacy programs. The book is for those children whose “lives [are] shaped by the sights and sounds of the bush.” – p. 2. For years K-6.


“The story highlights the importance of family and kinship in Aboriginal culture, and beautifully captures the intimate knowledge of plant and animal relationships that Aboriginal people possessed.” – Back cover. Illustrated with the help of the ‘Year 2 children to whom it was first read. For children. Teachers’ notes are also available at the following website: http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/asp/education/bittangabee-tribe-teachers.pdf


This Stolen Generations story “is a tale for everyone who has ever wondered about the pain of separation, and the strength of the human spirit.” – Back cover. Children’s fiction.


“This collection of songs is about what children see and experience in their everyday lives, in the forests, in gardens and about shells on the shore to having toast and tea.” – Ruby Hunter, p. 4. For ages 4+.

The Dreaming of Aboriginal Australia: a large collection of inspirational stories collected & prepared by Jean A Ellis. Penrith, NSW: Kaliarna Productions, 2006. 305.89 DRE

“Traditional Aboriginal people in their many, separate groups found answers and guidance in the intricate, in-depth, varied and creative Teachings which came from the Dreaming. … This is the largest, single collection of Dreaming stories ever to be told.” – Back cover.

From little things big things grow by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody, illustrated by kids from Gurindji Country, with paintings by Peter Hudson. Camberwell East, Vic: One Day Hill, 2008. 994.29 KEL

“[T]he anthem of the land rights movement in Australia, telling the story of the proud Gurindji people and their stand against the might of the cattle baron, Lord Vestey.” – Publisher website. For ages 5+.
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Set in Tasmania in the early 19th century the story describes the journey by four children searching for their parents and the rest of their tribe who were murdered by whites while the children were away from the camp. For children 9-12 years.

**Idjhil: and the land cries for a lost soul** by Helen Bell. Nedlands, WA: Cygnet, 1996. F BEL

“Idjhil is the moving story of an Aboriginal boy who, at the age of nine, is taken from his family in accordance with the official government policy of the time. Although written as fiction, it is based on the memories and experiences of people still alive today [1996].” – Back cover. Reading level: ages 9-12. Teachers’ notes in *Reconciliation: middle primary teacher resource book* (305.89 REC).


This story of the Wongutha people of the Eastern Goldfields area tells of a group of stars known as the Seven Sisters. “The Sisters were beautiful women who used to visit the earth and wander the land. This is the story of why they appear in their position in the night sky.” – Back cover. For children.


“Learn how the little platypus, with the help of a fire spirit, became the curious creature we know today, that is found diving, swimming and floating in the billabongs and rivers of the bush.” – Back cover. For children.


“A beautiful story of how Mother Nature helps a lost girl find her way back to her family.” – Publisher website. For ages 5+.

**Maralinga: the Anangu story** by Yalata and Oak Valley communities, with Christobel Mattingly. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2009. 305.89 YAL

This book, with illustrations by community members, describes life before and after the atomic weapons testing of the 1950s and 1960s in the Maralinga Tjarutja lands. For students 10-14 years. Teachers’ notes available from publisher at: https://www.allenandunwin.com


The illustrations that accompany the lyrics of *My island home* are by schoolchildren from Papunya and Galiwinku. For primary school students.


For teaching children the importance of water. In Bandjalang and English.

**Nyuntu ninti (what you should know)** by Bob Randall & Melanie Hogan. Sydney: ABC Books, 2008. 305.89 RAN

“Through the gentle and wise words of ‘Uncle’ Bob Randall, *Nyuntu ninti* shows us what we should all know about an ancient and spiritual culture that is the very heart and soul of Australia.” – Back cover. For ages 5+. Study notes are also available at: http://static.harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommove rride/NYUNTU_NINTI_teacher_notes.pdf


“[O]ne of the first songs of its idiom to broach the subject of Aboriginal rights in Australia.” – Back cover. Includes illustrations by students from Mutujulu, Kaltukatjara and the Impana communities. Accompanying CD Rom contains the song in English and Pitjantjatjara language. For primary students.


This autobiographical song by one of the stolen generations is illustrated by Archie Roach’s late wife, Ruby Hunter, and Peter Hudson. For primary students.


A story from the Wongutha people of Western Australia, telling of a huge and powerful snake whose tracks became the rivers and creeks we now see. For children 6-12 years.

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**Resources available from the NSW Teachers Federation Library**

23-33 Mary St Surry Hills NSW 2010  Locked Bag 3010 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Ph 02 9217 2113 Fax 02 9217 2481 E library@nswtf.org.au  Web www.nswtf.org.au  click on Services tab

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**DVDs**

**The Dreaming** [DVD]. Moore Park, NSW: Aboriginal Nations Australia, 2004. 6 DVDs, 1110 min.

**DVD DRE**

Seventy-eight animated stories from The Dreaming. Suitable for primary students.

*Teachers’ guide* available, both on disc 1 and as hard copy.

**My place: series 2: 1878 - before time** [DVD]. ABC, 2011. 2 DVDs, 359 min. DVD PLA

*My place* tells the story of the children who live in one place over 130 years. Picking up the story from Henry in 1878, we go back through the years to Bangaroo's adventures before white settlement.” – Back cover. For ages 8-14. The Library also has series 1 DVD and teachers’ guide (for series 1 and 2) DVD.

*Classification*: PG (Mild themes)

**PUZZLES**

**Plato puzzles** [wood jigsaw puzzles]

*The Aboriginal flag* (24 pieces); *The Australian flag* (24 pieces); *Crocodile story* (48 p.); *Indigenous language map* (20 p.); *It's time to RECOGNISE Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution* (24 p.); *Koala* (48 p.); *Platypus* (15 pieces); *The red-tail black cockatoo* (48 p.); *Torres Strait Island flag* (24 p.).

The back of each puzzle features information about the work.