

Geography Alive: Stage 3 (Topic 1: Factors that shape places)

Lesson 2: The Ngarrindjeri People of South Australia and the environment		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson, students have the opportunity to focus on one Aboriginal nation and their relationship with the environment. They have the opportunity to study the Dreaming story about the formation of the River Murray and the Coorong. Students also study the colours and patterns used by Indigenous Australians and apply these to their developing understanding of the lower Murray area.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Resource Sheet 1: The Ngarrindjeri People of South Australia • A copy of Bronwyn Bancroft's <i>Colours of Australia</i> • A copy of Bronwyn Bancroft's <i>Patterns of Australia</i>
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the Ngarrindjeri people of South Australia explain key elements of the landscape in which they live? • What colours and patterns do Indigenous Australian use portray elements of the Australian environment? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the physical landscape of the Country of the Ngarrindjeri Nation • reflect on the use of Dreaming Stories to explain the creation of Australian landscapes • identify the colours and patterns Indigenous artists used to portray key elements of the Australian landscape • acquires, processes and communicates geographical information. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Introduce students to the Ngarrindjeri people of South Australia using the background information provided on Teacher Resource Sheet 1. Locate Country of the Ngarrindjeri Nation, outline how they interacted with their environment and the key events in the history of the Ngarrindjeri people. • Step 2: Using Google Earth explore the lands of the Ngarrindjeri people using the map and satellite image on Teacher Resource Sheet 1 and a Guide. Ask the students to investigate the formation of the Coorong and the importance of the River Murray using the internet. Ask them to share their findings with the class. • Step 3: Read students the Dreaming Story of Ngarrindjeri. What was the purpose of the story? Ask the students to rewrite the story in their own words. • Step 4: Read students <i>Colours of Australia</i> – a picture book by Bronwyn Bancroft, a Djanbun clan member of the Bundjalung Nation. Ask the students to identify those colours they associate with Australia and compare these featured in <i>Colours of Australia</i> (white, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet and black) With what element of the natural environment associated? • Step 5: Read students <i>Patterns of Australia</i>. Ask students to describe the patterns of the sky, the bush, the night, the desert, wildflowers, the river, the wetlands, the rainforest, the ocean and the reef. Ask students to identify any relationships evident between the colours and patterns of Australia. • Step 6: Based on their developing understanding of the 'Country' of the Ngarrindjeri Nation, ask students to identify the colours and patterns the Ngarrindjeri people might use to represent the environment in which they live.