

AUSSIE CLUE CRACKER

Aussie Clue Cracker Activity – Indigenous symbols in Australia

Indigenous symbols in Australia – why these are important to all Australians

Outline	Inquiry approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students begin to develop an understanding and appreciation of Australia's Indigenous heritage by exploring the Indigenous symbols and icons included in the Aussie Clue Cracker Students will gain an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Harmony Week, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC week) and the importance of symbols and emblems (Australian Curriculum, History, Year 3, ACHHK063)</i> This is an individual activity. 	<p>ASK: Tune In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and discuss the inquiry question: <i>Why are Indigenous symbols important to all Australians?</i> Engage your students in learning by brainstorming with them the range of Indigenous symbols they already know about and encourage them to share their own experiences and explore with them what they would like to learn and know about through this activity. Identify that the purpose of the learning is to build their understanding of Australia's Indigenous heritage and why these symbols are important to all Australians. <p>INVESTIGATE: Find Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your students gather information on the Indigenous symbols and icons that are included in the Aussie Clue Cracker resource (the Aboriginal flag, the Torres Strait Islander flag, kangaroo, boomerang, didgeridoo, Rainbow Serpent, Uluru). Once they have found these icons and symbols, they need to document what they can find out about each – for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does 'Uluru' mean? Why is it important to the traditional owners, the Anangu people? What do the different elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags represent? What are Dreamtime Stories? How is the rainbow serpent a Creation being? What other Dreamtime Stories can they find? (etc) At this stage, your students may refine the inquiry question or follow a new path that the original question did not-or could not-anticipate.

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CREATE: Sort Out

- Your students need to organise the information gathered and synthesise what they found in the Aussie Clue Cracker.
- Encourage them to select one particular Indigenous icon/symbol that they would like to find out more about and to think about how they might present this information themselves in whatever format and media they prefer.

DISCUSS and Make Connections

- Your students will make connections with the information they have gathered in the Aussie Clue Cracker, their own prior knowledge.
- Your students will begin to shape their new thoughts and ideas about Indigenous symbols and icons and will begin to develop a learning artefact that focuses on a specific Indigenous icon/symbol. This will enable them to deepen their understanding of the concepts and ideas related to the inquiry question and to demonstrate their understanding.
- Encourage your students to share their plan ideas with others and to compare notes, discuss conclusions, and share their experiences.
- When their investigation has been completed, ask each student to present their work to a small group or the whole class.

EXTEND: Going further

- Further explore concepts, interests and ideas and raise new questions and challenge any assumptions made.

REFLECT:

- Take time with your students to encourage them to look back at the question - *Why are Indigenous symbols important to all Australians?* – and encourage them to share what they know now.
- Ask them to reflect on how they used the Aussie Clue Cracker, what they found that they might not have known before, the conclusions they made, the observations they took.

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- Ask your students if an answer to the question was found and discuss any new questions that arose as part of the inquiry.

Resources for teachers

- Australia Day and Reconciliation (National Australia Day Council)
www.australiaday.org.au/experience/page31.asp
- The electorate offices of Senators and Federal Members of Parliament have available (at no cost) *Australian flags* and *Australian symbols* booklets and recordings of the Australian National Anthem (CD and DVD). Flags are also available on request to eligible groups such as schools.
- Fact sheets on Australians national symbols may be downloaded from www.itsanhonour.gov.au
- Harmony Day
<http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/>
- NAIDOC Week
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>