

## Learning sequence 1: Who are Australia’s Indigenous peoples?

Inquiry question	Knowledge and understanding
Who lived here first and how do we know?*	The importance of Country and Place to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who belong to a local area*
Skills	Historical language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sequence historical people and events</li> <li>Locate relevant information from sources provided*</li> </ul>	Aboriginal, Dreaming, local area, site, evidence, Country

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### Notes:

- Teachers may wish to read the background notes on Australian Indigenous history, page 117, before embarking on this lesson sequence.
- This sequence is intended to be a local area study with a focus on the local language group. However, if information, sources or appropriate people are not readily available, another representative area may be studied.

### Teaching activities

#### Who are Australia’s Indigenous peoples?

- Ask students who they think were the first people to live in Australia. Either confirm or correct their responses. ('Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' is the correct response.)
- Explain the meaning of the word 'aboriginal' ('from the beginning'), the word introduced by early British settlers to describe all the Aboriginal people in Australia.
- Explain the meaning of the word 'Indigenous' ('originating in' or 'natural to' a place). We use the word 'Indigenous' when referring to both Aboriginal people and the people of the Torres Strait Islands. Both are Indigenous Australians, but their cultures and languages are different. Show students the Torres Strait Islands on a map of Australia.
- Show students the three Australian flags and explain that each one has special meaning for particular Australians. Discuss the symbols on the Australian flag, and then issue **BLM 1 Flags of Indigenous Australians**. Have students research, draw, colour and label the flags.
- Show students an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language map and explain that the different colours represent the 250 different languages that were spoken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples around the time the British colonists arrived in Australia in 1788. Maps can be accessed on the ABC website or the Museum of South Australia website, or a coloured wall map can be purchased from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra.
- Explain that there is no single Aboriginal word for all the people of Australia and that Aboriginal people use the name of their language group—for example, Arrernte or Kamilaroi—or a more general regional name for themselves—for example, Koori in south-eastern Australia; Murri in western New South Wales and Queensland; and Nyungar/ Noongar in Arnhem Land and northern Western Australia.
- Inform students of the name of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language spoken in the local area, and, if possible, teach them some words or phrases from the language. Students complete **BLM 2 The first Australians**.