

## 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

### Background Information

The sample CD in this year's National Aboriginal and Islander Activity Kit has promoted the diversity and some of the core values important to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, for example: co-existing with nature, the role of family, such as Elders in teaching culture and life skills.

- Discuss with young people/students the diversity of Aboriginal groups within Australia and the Torres Strait Islands

A great resource is the Aboriginal Australia wall map, see [http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal\\_studies\\_press/aboriginal\\_wall\\_map](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal_studies_press/aboriginal_wall_map)

(The wall map provides general location of larger groupings of people, which may include smaller groups such as clans, dialects or individual languages in a group. The boundaries are not intended to be exact).

- Invite an Elder to talk about traditional customs and practices and where your local area is on the map
- Land management
- Living on the land and practices unique to each group, for example: trade, hunting
- About the roles of men, women and children in traditional
- Language

### 10 Questions for your Elders

- Who are the Traditional Owners of the land in which you live?
- What is a totem and how do children find out about their totem?
- In this local community are there landmarks or special places important to the Traditional Owners?
- What is the Traditional language of this area?
- What are some of the Traditional foods from this area?
- What are the Traditional and English words for these foods?
- How did the communities look after and teach children before colonisation?
- What is the Dreaming?
- Why was storytelling so important? How are stories shared? (e.g.: oral, painting, dance)
- Can you tell me a Dreaming story?