

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HISTORIES AND CULTURES

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
learners first

LIVING CULTURES – MUTTONBIRDING

YEAR 2

The
Orb

MUTTONBIRDING

ROOKERY VISIT

Learners explore the concepts of place, interconnection and sustainability. They explore how human actions influence the environmental characteristics of mutton bird rookeries and the relationship Tasmanian Aboriginal people have with mutton birds and their habitat.

CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

Organising idea 2

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities maintain a special connection to and responsibility for Country/Place.

Organising idea 3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have holistic belief systems and are spiritually and intellectually connected to the land, sea, sky and waterways.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Students describe a person, site and/or event of significance in the local community and explain why places are important to people.

They recognise that places have different meaning for different people and why the significant features of places should be preserved.

They reflect on their learning to suggest ways to care for places and sites of significance. Students develop narratives about the past and communicate findings in a range of texts using language to describe direction, location and the passing of time.

CONTENT DESCRIPTORS

History

The history of a significant person, building, site and/or part of the natural environment in the local community and what it reveals about the past (ACHASSK044).

Geography

The ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples maintain special connections to particular Country/Place (ACHASSK049).

The influence of purpose, distance and accessibility on the frequency with which people visit places (ACHASSK051).

GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Critical and Creative Thinking

Generating ideas, possibilities and actions

Imagine possibilities and connect ideas

Level 2 – build on what they know to create ideas and possibilities in ways that are new to them

Ethical Understanding

Reasoning in decision making and actions

Reflect on ethical actions

Level 2 – give examples of how understanding situations can influence the way people act

Intercultural Understanding

Recognising culture and developing respect

Develop respect for cultural diversity

Level 2 – describe ways that diversity presents opportunities for new experiences and understandings

Learning Goals

Learners will:

- » Describe the features of a mutton bird rookery.
- » Identify the location of mutton bird rookeries in Tasmania.
- » Identify areas in Tasmania where land has been returned to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and match that with the location of the rookeries.
- » Understand the relationship Tasmanian Aboriginal people have with mutton birds and the rookeries as an important connection to Country.

Learning Sequence

Activating and Engaging

Learning Maps

View the clips from the 'Living Cultures – Muttonbirding' section of The Orb.

Ask learners:

- » Where are the mutton bird rookeries in Tasmania?

- » What is the birds' purpose for being in the rookery, and how long do they stay?
- » What does a rookery look like?
- » What relationship do Tasmanian Aboriginal people have with the land where the rookeries are found?
- » What might Aboriginal people need to do to protect the rookeries from damage?

Exploring and Discovering

Community Links

Land Links

Invite an Aboriginal Heritage Officer from Parks and Wildlife or a member of the Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge program to take the class to a mutton bird rookery in February or March to show learners a mutton bird chick and to watch the adult birds return from the sea to their burrows at dusk.

Ask Learners:

- » How do Tasmanian Aboriginal people ensure that the rookery is kept in good condition for the breeding birds and their chicks?
- » What human and environmental threats are faced by the birds, both in the rookery and when they travel out to sea?
- » What aspects of connecting to Country are demonstrated by Tasmanian Aboriginal people?

Visit the *ningina tunapri* exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to explore the relationship between the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the mutton bird.

Ask learners:

- » What connections do Tasmanian Aboriginal people have with mutton birds and the practice of birding?

Learning Maps

Share with learners the maps from *Return to the Islands* and *The Big Dog Connection*. Have learners draw an illustrated map showing the position of land returned to Aboriginal people and the location of the major mutton bird rookeries in Tasmania.

Synthesising and Applying

Story Sharing

Symbols and Images

Have learners:

- » Describe their experience of visiting a mutton bird rookery.
- » Re-tell the stories they heard from their Aboriginal guide about Aboriginal people's connection to land and mutton birds.
- » Describe the importance of muttonbirding to Aboriginal people in the past and the present.

- » Illustrate and describe ways Aboriginal people travel to their lands where the muttonbirding takes place.
- » Build a model of a mutton bird burrow.

Success Criteria

Learners:

- » Explain the importance of muttonbirding for Aboriginal people as an expression of their special connection to particular land/place.
- » Describe and suggest ways to care for mutton bird rookeries as places and sites of significance.
- » Describe what today's Aboriginal people tell us about their past and ongoing connection to country and place that is shown through their relationship with muttonbirding.

Resources

- » [The Orb](#)
- » [Australian Curriculum](#)
- » [Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge \(ASK Program\) Guidelines](#)
- » [Aboriginal Sharers of Knowledge \(ASK Program\) Application Form](#)
- » The Aboriginal Education Library: email Aboriginal.education.library@education.tas.gov.au or telephone 03 6165 5480 for more resources, including the ones listed below.
- » The Eight-Way Framework of Aboriginal Pedagogy
- » *Return to the Islands [kit] : the story of Aborigines and the tradition of muttonbirding*, Department of Education, Tasmania
- » DVD – *The Big Dog Connection*, Aboriginal Education Services, Tasmania
- » [TMAG Online Resources](#)

Glossary

Burrow

A hole in the ground dug by an animal such as a rabbit, especially to live in. C

Country

In Aboriginal English, a person's land, sea, sky, rivers, sites, seasons, plants and animals; place of heritage, belonging and spirituality; is called 'Country'. AM

Mutton bird

A shearwater or petrel of the southern oceans. D

Muttonbirding

The seasonal harvesting of the chicks of petrels, especially shearwater species, for food, oil and feathers by recreational or commercial hunters. WP

Rookery

A rookery is a colony of breeding animals, generally birds. ... The word applies to the nesting place of birds, such as crows and rooks, the source of the term. The breeding grounds of colony-forming seabirds and marine mammals (true seals or sea lions) and even some turtles are also referred to as rookeries. WP

AM	Australian Museum
C	Cambridge Dictionary
D	Dictionary.com
G	General understanding
WP	Wikipedia



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