

YEAR 4

FIRST CONTACTS

OUTLINE:

The MUNGO EXPLORER curriculum provides learning activities which investigate two of the Year 4 key inquiry questions. i.e.

- What was life like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
- What was the nature and the consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

The pivotal resource is the 'Lake Mungo: window to Australia's past' - CD by geologist, Professor Jim Bowler who discovered the oldest human remains in Australia at Lake Mungo, and provided evidence of the longevity of the First Australians. The supporting curriculum outlines how the ancestors of the local Traditional Tribes, the Barkindji/Paakantji, Nyiampaa and Mutthi Mutthi were resilient as they adapted their life-styles to survive over 50,000 years, through the last Ice Age.

The book, 'Nyuntu Ninti' by Uncle Bob Randall, an Anangu Elder from Uluru is used to help students understand how, for Aboriginal People, the physical and spiritual worlds are interconnected through their relationship with all things natural i.e. Land, Water and Sky.

Our shared black and white histories are investigated from different perspectives, enabling students to empathise and understand the importance of Reconciliation.

INTRODUCTION - PERSONAL STORIES

- First Australians
- History revealing itself

UNPACKING THE PAST at LAKE MUNGO

- Discovering the First Australians
- Fossils, artefacts and remains
- What do geologists and archaeologists do?
- The Elements; fire, earth, water and air
- Significance of the burial site

ANCIENT LIFESTYLES in ICE AGE AUSTRALIA

- Ice Age Australia
- Climate change and cycles

LIVING DESCENDANTS - EUROPEAN CONTACT

- Reading the landscape
- Life-style: Meeting physical and spiritual needs
- Impact of European contact
- Living descendants today

YEAR 7

THE ANCIENT WORLD

Mungo Explorer covers the following two strands which are interwoven

OVERVIEW: HUMAN ANTIQUITY

DEPTH STUDY: THE ANCIENT PAST 'INVESTIGATING LAKE MUNGO'

The central theme of the depth study is based on the significant discoveries of the oldest human remains in Australia at Lake Mungo. Jim Bowler was the geologist who discovered the remains of Mungo Lady and Mungo Man, in 1967 and 1974 respectively. The CD **Lake Mungo: a window to Australia's past** provides a multi-disciplinary record of his scientific work and is widely utilised throughout this study. The discoveries provide evidence that sophisticated cultures existed in Australia over 40,000, (probably 60,000) years ago.

Through the disciplines of science, geology and archaeology we are provided with a 'window to Australia's past.' Students will:

- ❖ be provided with opportunities to engage in authentic historical inquiry
- ❖ examine the different approaches to historical investigation
- ❖ explore evidence provided about global societies of the ancient historical period
- ❖ analyse significant historical events from different perspectives
- ❖ explore the importance of conserving the remains of the past

HUMAN ANTIQUITY OVERVIEW



- ❖ Journey of Modern Humans 'Out of Africa'
- ❖ Connections between changing climates and the Human Journey
- ❖ Human occupation of Australia

EVIDENCE OF AUSTRALIA'S ANCIENT PAST DEPTH STUDY



- ❖ Evidence of early human occupation
- ❖ Lake Mungo discoveries challenge history
- ❖ Sources of evidence
 - Scientific Inquiry method
 - Archaeology and Geology
 - Climate change impacts upon living

ANCIENT LIFESTYLES DEPTH STUDY (integrates aspects of OVERVIEW CONTENT)



- ❖ Re-imagining the past
- ❖ Re-designing ancient environments
- ❖ Human similarities across time & Cultures

THE LEGACY OF LAKE MUNGO DEPTH STUDY



- ❖ World Heritage Status
- ❖ The Universal Story
- ❖ Ancient Wisdom