

# Marvellous micro-organisms

## Indigenous perspectives curriculum links

### Engage

#### Lesson 1 Session 1 Exploring bread

Indigenous people have been making damper for thousands of years. High in protein and carbohydrate, the damper was made from seeds ground into a flour on millstones. The flour was then mixed with water to make a dough and placed into hot ashes for baking. Yeast, commonly used in modern breads, was not an ingredient of traditional Indigenous damper.

- To watch an elder making and cooking traditional bread see [www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/bush-tucker-is-everywhere/clip2/](http://www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/bush-tucker-is-everywhere/clip2/)

### Explore

#### Lesson 4 Knead the loaf

A number of bush foods used traditionally by Indigenous people are made into damper. Some of the foods are potentially poisonous and have to be processed before being made into damper and eaten.



- Make bush damper.  
See Damper Lessons 1 – 4:  
[www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac121.pdf](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac121.pdf)  
[www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac122.pdf](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac122.pdf)  
[www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac123.pdf](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac123.pdf)  
[www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac124.pdf](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/pdfs/apac124.pdf)
- See *Waterlilies* for a description of how waterlily seeds are ground and made into damper in the traditional way in Kakadu.  
(Lucas, D. & Campbell, C. (2007). *Waterlilies*. Palmerston, NT: Waterlily Publications.)

### Explain

#### Lesson 5 Food observations

- Contact the local Indigenous Land Council or cultural heritage centre to make contact with local Indigenous community members to share their knowledge of making damper and, if possible, make damper with the students using traditional methods. See 'Damper day' and 'Bread day' lessons at [www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/lessons\\_area\\_science.html](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/lessons_area_science.html)
- Use a flow chart to show the steps completed in the damper-making process by Indigenous people.

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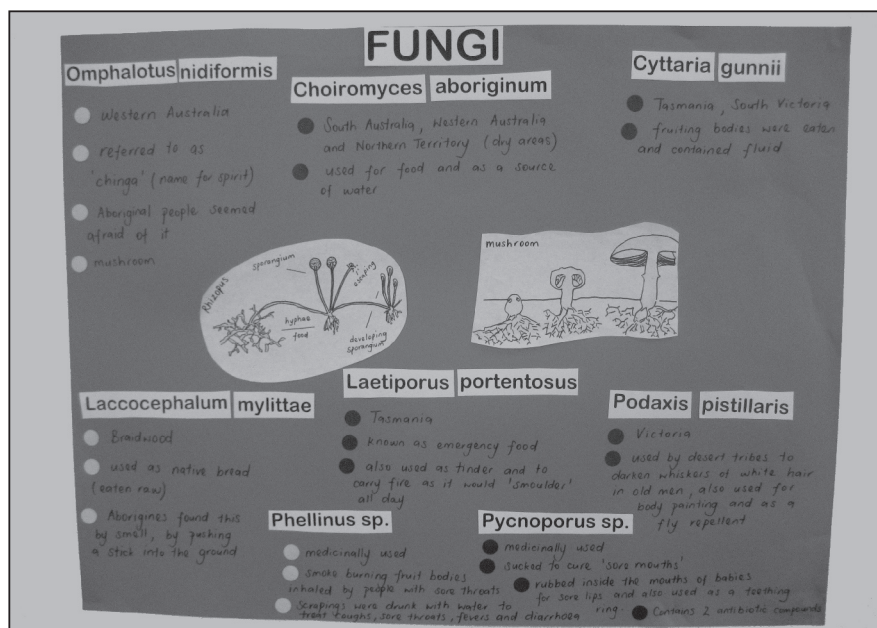
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### Elaborate

#### Lesson 6 Mystery moulds

Indigenous people have used fungi for food and medicinal purposes for thousands of years.

- Create posters on different types of fungi and how they are used by Indigenous people. See [www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/aboriginal.html](http://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/aboriginal.html)



Work sample of a fungi poster

### Evaluate

#### Lesson 8 Micro-organisms experts

- Prepare an oral presentation to an audience on the beliefs about and uses of fungi by Indigenous people.