

On the move

Indigenous perspectives curriculum links

Engage

Lesson 1 Movers and shakers

In Indigenous culture, dance is an important form of cultural and spiritual expression. Indigenous dances reflect different occasions and the diversity of Indigenous communities. Some dances are for entertainment while others are part of important and sacred rituals for specific members of the community only.

- Contact the local Indigenous Land Council or cultural heritage centre to make contact with local Indigenous community members. Invite them to speak with the students and demonstrate Indigenous dance if appropriate.
- Students describe body movements after watching a video clip of Indigenous dance. See www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/mimi-evening-aboriginal-dance/clip3 or the *Ceremony* clip at www.12canoes.com.au

Explore

Lesson 2 On the hunt for things that move

Some Indigenous children learn from their elders how to identify certain tracks or markings on the ground. A cleared place in the sand is used as the palette onto which the different tracks of animals, birds or even the footprints of other family members are drawn. Fingers, fingernails, palms and small drawing sticks are used as drawing implements.

- Use the school sandpit or a sand tray to recreate patterns or tracks in the sand that match different Australian native animals, such as the emu, possum, goanna and kangaroo. See www.ausport.gov.au/participating/indigenous/games/traditional_games/individual_games/imitation_games/waayin.pdf and www.aboriginalartstore.com.au/aboriginal-art-culture/aboriginal-symbols-glossary

Lesson 3 Playground play

Indigenous culture has a rich history of children's games and pastimes.

- Invite local Indigenous community members, Indigenous education officers and/or Indigenous students to share their knowledge about and participate in Indigenous games. See www.ausport.gov.au/participating/indigenous/games/traditional_games/full_resource and *From ochres to eel traps* for games involving movement.

(Halling, H. (Ed.) (1999). *From ochres to eel traps* (2nd edition). Canberra: Science Educators Association ACT, pages 43-51)

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Lesson 4 Toys that move

Indigenous people use both natural and man-made materials to create toys. Indigenous children have been playing with toys made from tin cans since the late 1800s.

- Make a tin-can roller (toy car). See www.ausport.gov.au/participating/indigenous/games/traditional_games/individual_games/imitation_games/thurnda-gu.pdf

Explain

Lesson 5 Moving towards an explanation

- Invite local Indigenous community members, Indigenous education officers and/or Indigenous students to share their knowledge and language related to movement. Add these movement words to the 'Chance dance cube 1' (Resource sheet 1) and 'Chance dance cube 2' (Resource sheet 2).

Elaborate

Lesson 6 Rolling along

Traditional and contemporary ball games are played in Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

- Organise for students to play Indigenous ball games. See www.ausport.gov.au/participating/indigenous/games/traditional_games/individual_games

Evaluate

Lesson 7 Showing what we know

- Demonstrate to another class or at a school assembly some of the Indigenous games played during the unit. Use Standard Australian English and local Indigenous words on cards when demonstrating movements in the games.