

# What's it made of?

## Indigenous perspectives curriculum links

### Engage

#### Lesson 1 Minds on maps

For thousands of years Indigenous people have used natural materials for a variety of purposes including making tools, clothing, containers and adhesives. Materials used include stones, shells, wood, bark, sap, bones, animal skins and plant fibres. The items made reflect the geographical location of the Indigenous group.

- Contact the local Indigenous Land Council or cultural heritage centre to make contact with local Indigenous community members to explore the local environment. Discuss Indigenous names for plants and objects observed and how the materials are used to make items such as baskets or ropes. Add Indigenous names and images to the class word wall.
- Watch the videoclip, *The Right Tree*.  
See [www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/crook-hat-and-camphoo/clip1](http://www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/crook-hat-and-camphoo/clip1)
- For further information  
see [www.anbg.gov.au/education/pdfs/aboriginal\\_plant\\_use\\_and\\_technology.pdf](http://www.anbg.gov.au/education/pdfs/aboriginal_plant_use_and_technology.pdf)

### Explore

#### Lesson 2 Object observers

- In consultation with local Indigenous community members and/or Indigenous education officers, collect real, or images of, Indigenous artefacts such as handmade baskets or tools. Ask students to observe, describe and group the artefacts according to what each is made of.

### Elaborate

#### Lesson 5 Waterproof wonders

- Include kangaroo or possum skins in the investigation of materials for water resistance. Discuss how some Indigenous people wore possum-skin and/or kangaroo-skin cloaks to help keep them dry and warm. The cloaks may be used today for ceremonial purposes.