

# Change detectives

## Indigenous perspectives curriculum links

### Explore

#### Lesson 2 Session 3 Evocative evaporation

Indigenous people use native plants for medicinal purposes, treating ailments such as headaches and stomach aches. Crushing the leaves of the melaleuca, eucalyptus and prostanthera (mint) species releases the vapours of the essential oils.

- Use tea tree oil or eucalyptus oil as demonstration essence in this lesson.
- Contact the local Indigenous Land Council or cultural heritage centre to make contact with local Indigenous community members and invite them to speak with the students about aromatic native plants and their medicinal uses. Collect and crush young leaves from aromatic Australian native bush plants in the school yard, gardens or nature reserve. Ask students to discuss the differences in smell and what might be the cause of these differences. Research the plants and their medicinal use by Indigenous people.

See [www.maningrida.com/mac/bwc/documents/traditional\\_aboriginal\\_medicine\\_practice.pdf](http://www.maningrida.com/mac/bwc/documents/traditional_aboriginal_medicine_practice.pdf)

**Note:** Permission is needed to collect plants from public bushlands and national parks.

#### Lesson 3 Slippery solutions

Many bush foods are potentially poisonous if ingested and need to be prepared with specific techniques before they are safe to eat. Over thousands of years, Indigenous people have developed a knowledge of which bush foods are poisonous and how they need to be treated to remove toxins.

- Create a poster illustrating different techniques Indigenous people used to remove toxins from bush foods. See [www.anbg.gov.au/education/bush-food/Canberra-Times-Bushfoods.pdf](http://www.anbg.gov.au/education/bush-food/Canberra-Times-Bushfoods.pdf) (page 4)
- Explore a method of removing toxins (leaching) using sweet potato. See *Removing the Toxins* [www.anbg.gov.au/education/bush-food/Canberra-Times-Bushfoods.pdf](http://www.anbg.gov.au/education/bush-food/Canberra-Times-Bushfoods.pdf) (page 5)

#### Lesson 4 Candle capers

Charcoal is used by Indigenous people as a pigment for painting.

- Research the use of charcoal in traditional and contemporary Indigenous art.  
See [www.aboriginalartstore.com.au/aboriginal-art-culture/aboriginal-art-paintings](http://www.aboriginalartstore.com.au/aboriginal-art-culture/aboriginal-art-paintings)

### Explain

#### Lesson 5 Classifying changes

- Provide additional cards for the card sort with examples of changes made by Indigenous people to materials, such as grinding seeds, making charcoal and leaching plants.