

# 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. Invite them to take the students for a walk in the school grounds or local reserve and discuss Indigenous names for plants and objects observed and how the materials are used to make items such as baskets or ropes. Include 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.

#### Lesson 3 The name game

- Use Indigenous artefacts, for example a boomerang, as part of the 'Feely box'.

### Elaborate

#### Lesson 5 Waterproof wonders

- Include kangaroo or possum skins in the investigation of materials for water resistance. Show images of Indigenous people wearing possum-skin and/or kangaroo-skin cloaks and discuss how they help keep them dry and warm.