

Teacher Resource

Episode 31
3rd November 2015

Indigenous Art

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What have the kids made for the Tarnanthi art exhibition?
2. What is the purpose of an audio guide?
3. Give an example of the sort of information in the guide.
4. Who did the students interview as part of their research?
5. Describe Yvonne Koolmatrie artworks.
6. Where does she collect the materials for her artworks?
7. Describe at least one other piece of art in the exhibition.
8. How did they put together their audio guides?
9. What did the art gallery say about the guides the kids made?
10. What was surprising about this story?

ACTIVITY

Yvonne Koolmatrie

Look at [Yvonne Koolmatrie's artwork](#). Choose one piece that you are interested in and explore in detail.

- What is it? Describe what the artwork looks like using as much detail as possible.
- What materials are used to make this artwork (what is it made from)?
- Draw a picture of the artwork.
- Make some imaginary animals using string and wire and display as an exhibition at your school. Write a short story about the animal you have made.

Watch this [video](#) about Yvonne Koolmatrie, which was made for the Tarnanthi festival, and then respond to the following:

- Write down three things that you learnt about Yvonne Koolmatrie.
- What influenced Yvonne to start basket weaving?
- What do Yvonne's artworks tell us about Aboriginal culture and their connection with the land?



KEY LEARNING

Students will explore and discuss Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks. Students will explain how artists communicate cultural, historical and social meaning through visual art.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The Arts / Visual Arts – Years 3/4

Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times, including [artwork](#) by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [artists](#), to use as inspiration for their own representations ([ACAVAM110](#))

Identify intended purposes and meanings of artworks using visual arts terminology to compare artworks, starting with visual artworks in Australia including visual artworks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples ([ACAVAR113](#))

The Arts / Visual Arts – Years 5/6

Explore ideas and [practices](#) used by [artists](#), including [practices](#) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [artists](#), to represent different views, beliefs and opinions ([ACAVAM114](#))

Explain how visual arts [conventions](#) communicate meaning by comparing artworks from different social, cultural and historical contexts, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks ([ACAVAR117](#))

The Arts / Visual Arts – Years 7/8

Experiment with visual arts [conventions](#) and techniques, including exploration of techniques used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [artists](#), to represent a theme, concept or idea in their [artwork](#) ([ACAVAM118](#))

Identify and connect specific features and purposes of visual artworks from contemporary and past times to explore [viewpoints](#) and enrich their art-making, starting with Australian artworks including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples ([ACAVAR124](#))



ACTIVITY

Plan an excursion to your local art gallery

Plan a trip to your local art gallery to look at its Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander art collection. Look for prints, paintings, and sculpture. Alternatively, if you are unable to physically visit an art gallery, visit an online art gallery. For example, visit the [National Gallery of Australia](https://www.nationalgallery.gov.au/) to explore a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

Before visiting the art gallery

As a class, plan a trip to your local art gallery to explore its Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander art collection. You will need to think about the following:

- What do you already know about Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander art?
- What do you want to learn? Write 5 questions that you would like to investigate.
- How will you get there and how long will you need to visit the exhibition?
- Can you meet a tour guide or education guide to show you around?
- What will you need to take with you?

Trip to the art gallery

When you arrive at the art gallery, visit the Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander art collection. Spend time visiting each artwork. Choose one of the artworks (painting, print, sculpture) that you will focus on for this project.

Write down as much information as you can about the artwork in 15 minutes. Record everything you see in detail. The longer you look the more you will see. Consider looking at it from different angles, up close and far away.

- Is it a painting, print, sculpture or another type of artwork?
- What materials were used to make it?
- Describe what it looks like, including colours, shapes and patterns.
- How does the artwork make you feel?

Draw a picture of the artwork including as much detail as possible.

Back at school

When you get back to school you will write a short description explaining more about the artwork you focused on.

Reflect on the artwork and use the internet to learn more about the artist. Respond to the following.

- What attracted you to the artwork?
- Did you enjoy looking at the artwork? Why?
- What were your first impressions of the artwork?
- How would you describe the artwork to someone who has never seen it before?

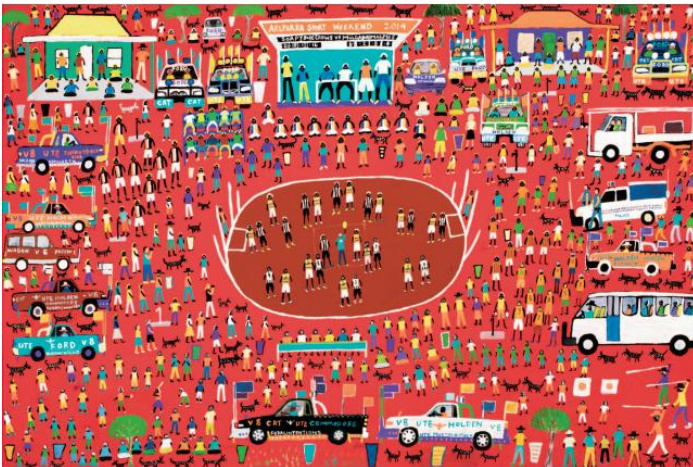
- Is it contemporary or traditional?
- If you could interview the artist what questions would you ask them about the artwork? Find out if you can contact the artist for an interview.
- What is the 'story' behind this artwork?
- Where is the artist from?
- Interesting facts

Write your own 'audio tour' to accompany the piece of artwork you focused on for this project. Use the language of art when writing your piece, for example:

- I like the way the artist has....
- I think that the features of this artwork...

ACTIVITY

Bush footy



Examine this bush footy artwork by artist Josie Kunoth Petyarre, which features in the Tarnanthi Festival at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Respond to these questions:

- What do you think this artwork is about?
- How many things can you identify in this image? Make a list of everything you can see.
- What do you like about this artwork?

Create

Make a line drawing of your favourite sport. Sketch the event as though you are seeing it from above the ground (this is called bird's eye perspective). Alternatively draw your school and school yard from above.

Write about and discuss the meaning of your artwork with your classmates. Compare your artwork with others in your class.

Teachers, refer to this [Interpretive Guide](http://tarnanthi.com.au/event/tarnanthi-bush-footy/) for information about Josie Kunoth Petyarre's paintings.



USEFUL WEBSITES

Art Gallery SA – Tarnanthe Exhibition

<http://tarnanthe.com.au/>

Art Gallery SA – Pilbili Audio Tour

<http://tarnanthe.com.au/event/pilbili-audio-tour/>

Art Gallery SA – Pilbili Illustrations and Audio

<http://www.artgallery.sa.gov.au/AT/>

National Gallery of Victoria – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art

<http://nga.gov.au/collections/ATSI/>

Closer Productions – Yvonne Koolmatrie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=891pNQKhIs0>



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