

Activity worksheet

The custodial responsibility Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have for Country influences them to take sustainability issues very seriously. Knowledge and practices shared among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are linked to sustainable use of resources and environments, including:

- the use of controlled grassfires to prevent large bushfires from burning out of control in the hotter months
- the collecting and transporting of bush foods from semi-arid regions to new, more fertile areas
- the capture and transporting of baby animals to new regions for repopulation
- collecting and saving water in times of heavy rainfall in preparation for dry seasons and droughts
- tracking grazing animals to locate new waterholes
- carrying seeds in woven bags to ensure that certain species of plants would be available in multiple areas
- the rotational harvesting of resources
- moving from one area to another to avoid exhausting all the resources
- the making of traps and nets to catch living aquatic creatures for food, but letting the young ones return to the water

The last three of these practices on the list relate specifically to sustainable fishing practices. Your task is to conduct some online research about them. Go to the following URL: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/living-off-our-waters>

Look through the ‘The Right to Fish’ resource, then answer the following questions:

1. Explain the difference between ‘granting’ native title and *recognising* it. *Tip: see the page headed ‘What is native title?’*

2. Approximately what percentage of the coastline of the Northern Territory is legally owned by Aboriginal communities? *Tip: see the page headed ‘Land rights and the sea’.*

Look through the ‘Researching Indigenous Fishing Values’ resource, then answer the following questions:

3. There is a lack of a broader understanding about the value that Indigenous Australians place on a catch. Authorities must recognise that it is not merely about economics. What are some other ways in which a catch and the activity of fishing is of value to traditional owners? *Tip: see the first page of text in this resource.*

4. When researchers talked to community experts about fishing and managing aquatic resources, a list of common values was generated. Which of these values is about sustainable resource management? *Tip: see the third page of text in this resource.*

5. Explore the rest of the ‘Living off our waters’ resource and write a summary that explains the dominant beliefs and values about sustainable resource management. *Tip: Look particularly at the resource called ‘A brief history of Indigenous fishing’.*
