OUR LAND, OUR STORIES
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Histories and Cultures
Foreword

As the CEO of an Institute that is the custodian of the world’s largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander materials, I am very pleased to be co-publishing this important series with Nelson Cengage. The positioning of Australian Indigenous cultures and histories as a central cross-curriculum priority is particularly important, and critically so for the primary school years. It is vital that we create opportunities for young people to engage with the rich, diverse and enduring heritage of Australia’s First Peoples. An historical absence of this teaching in our schools curricula, coupled with a legacy of misrepresentation and continuing deficit discourses makes it all the more crucial that we build that knowledge for current and future generations.

Our deep relationships across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia, our long history of research, and our priceless and unparalleled collection, places us in a unique position to shape the conversation about Australia’s past and importantly its future. As an Institute that provides a leadership role in working and engaging ethically with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, research and materials, we are committed to ensuring that conversation articulates and applies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s knowledges in culturally appropriate ways.

Our vision is that the unique cultures and histories of Australia’s Indigenous peoples are maintained, respected, celebrated and valued throughout the nation and the world. Through our activities we tell the story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia and, in doing so, create opportunities for people to encounter, engage with and be transformed by that story. Our Land, Our Stories offers an opportunity to not only enrich the understanding of current and future generations about our nation’s history and identity, it offers an opportunity to deepen our understanding about what it means to be an Australian.

Mr Craig Ritchie
CEO, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this text contains the names and images of people who have passed away.
**Our Land, Our Stories**: At a glance

*Our Land, Our Stories* is a landmark series exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures. The series includes rare and historically important photographs, artwork and audio-visual resources, with many texts and stories written by leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors.

*Our Land, Our Stories* comprises three sets of comprehensive and vibrant resources for Lower Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary. All resources explicitly link to the *Australian Curriculum* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cross-curriculum priority – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures – through exploring the three key concepts of:

- **Country/Place**
- **Culture**
- **People**

The spectacular series includes three Teacher’s Resource Books, nine Big Books and 45 Cards for each stage of Lower, Middle and Upper Primary. Within each stage, one Big Book and five Cards focus on one of the key concepts. QR codes are contained within the Big Books and Cards to unlock audio-visual resources to augment and extend student understanding of a specific topic.

**Value for Teachers**

*Our Land, Our Stories* empowers educators to teach with confidence. All resources have been researched by experts and written in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups to ensure the content is culturally appropriate and the persons depicted are represented accurately.

**Why should a teacher use Our Land, Our Stories?**

*Our Land, Our Stories* was created to:

- celebrate contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and address prevailing misconceptions from all over Australia
- depict both historical and contemporary representations of urban, rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- address the lack of comprehensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educational resources available to educators and students.
Our partnership

Our Land, Our Stories has been created in partnership with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). AIATSIS is an independent government body based in Canberra, and is the custodian of a priceless collection of films, photographs, video and audio recordings, and the world’s largest collections of printed and other resource materials for Indigenous Australian studies.

AIATSIS is a world-renowned research and publishing organisation. Their core mission is to affirm and raise awareness of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. Their functions are established by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989.

Our logo

The Our Land, Our Stories logo was designed by ingeous studios, an Australian Indigenous design company based in Cairns. The innovative logo design reflects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, past and present.

The tri-colour design reflects the three concepts:

- **Orange** for Country/Place topics
- **Green** for Culture topics
- **Yellow** for People topics

The colours featured link to the Living Communities logo in the Australian Curriculum. Please take notice of the colours as a quick way to find what you’re looking for!
Our Land, Our Stories provides educators with a framework to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander information, stories and images with students. Through first-hand accounts of historical events and descriptions of cultures, the classroom will transform into a learning environment where teachers and students learn about one of the world’s oldest living cultures.

The series presents stories, information and images from the Torres Strait Islands, from remote parts of Australia and from regional towns and urban cities, reinforcing the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Our Land, Our Stories is a fully comprehensive resource that meets the teaching requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

How does Our Land, Our Stories look in your classroom?

Teacher’s Resource Book

The Teacher’s Resource Books at Lower, Middle and Upper Primary are an essential tool to enable educators to broaden their understanding of Indigenous Australian languages, peoples, cultures and histories. Educators should refer to the Teacher’s Resource Book first to learn about the protocols associated with this material. The resources contain discussion points, teaching strategies and pathways, learning activities, links to the Australian Curriculum and links to a vast array of online content.
Perfect for whole-class instruction, the Big Books are designed to introduce key themes and concepts of Country/Place, People and Culture.

Many themes explored in the Big Books are then covered in greater detail in the Cards. There are six copies of each topic card to enable small-group or independent work.

Listen to Teacher’s Resource Book author, Sally Lawrence, guide you through a teaching pathway using the Our Land, Our Stories components.
Teacher’s Resource Book: 
Build your cultural capability

Your journey with Our Land, Our Stories begins with the Teacher’s Resource Book. There is a Teacher’s Resource Book for Lower Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary. An essential teaching tool, these books provide a structure according to the conceptual framework for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures Australian Curriculum priority.

Teacher Benefits:

An essential teaching tool: The Teacher’s Resource Books give educators the essential teaching mechanisms and support to respectfully and effectively explore concepts of Country/Place, Culture and People.

Meaningful teaching instruction: The resources provide a rich opportunity to deepen educators’ understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and impart that knowledge on to students.

Reconciliation, respect and recognition: Our Land, Our Stories has been developed so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students may see themselves, their identities and their cultures reflected in the curriculum.

Every Teacher’s Resource Book is packaged with a copy of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book*. Written by AIATSIS with Bruce Pascoe, *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* is the perfect companion for teachers to learn more about the rich cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Told through the lens of Indigenous Australian peoples, the book covers a range of topics, including:

- Who we are (the Dreaming, family ties, connections with the land)
- How we live (remote, regional and city living, health, education)
- Our achievements (film and television, music, sport)
- Our shared history (The Stolen Generations and The Apology)
- Our leadership and activism (The 1967 Referendum, the Tent Embassy, the Mabo Case)
- Let’s celebrate (Reconciliation, NAIDOC week)

Fascinating and thoroughly researched stories and information are shared through the Big Books. The perfect whole-class resource, each level includes one Big Book for each strand of Our Land, Our Stories. The Big Books introduce key themes and concepts to generate group discussion to bolster students’ understanding of the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Extensive teacher support

Extensive teacher support for the Big Books can be found in the Teacher’s Resource Book. Each topic includes:

- relevant background information
- a synopsis
- key learning intentions
- teaching pathways
- protocols
- discussion points
- learning activities
- explicit links to the Australian Curriculum.

Digital component

QR codes can be found on various pages of the Big Books, enabling teachers and students to delve deeper and further explore the topics. The content the QR codes link to draws from AIATSIS’ priceless collection of art, photography and audio-visual resources.
The front covers of the Big Books feature a series of hand-selected artworks from AIATSIS’ rich collection, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. The opening page features the full image, alongside information about the artist and the story behind the work.

Explore the complex concept of Country/Place and how it shapes and defines Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities. Students will learn about people’s close connection to land, and caring for Country.

Gain an understanding of what Culture is and how it differs for various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Notions of The Dreaming, spiritual connections, laws, language, art, music and more are explored in the Culture Big Books.

Meet the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have shaped Australia, both past and present, in the People Big Books. Discover the legacies of Anthony Fernando, David Unaipon and Oodgeroo Noonuccal, a poet and activist who fought for Indigenous rights. Celebrate the achievements of well-known entertainer Jessica Mauboy, and the Hon. Linda Burney MP, the first Indigenous Australian woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.
The resources at Lower Primary level include a Teacher’s Resource Book, three Big Books and fifteen topic cards with six copies per topic.

In the Big Books, **Country/Place**, **Culture** and **People**, students will meet three children and their families.

- Josie is from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait
- Orlando is from a small community in the desert of Western Australia
- Shae is from eastern Queensland

Students will meet these families, learn about their cultures, languages and their connection to their Country.

In **Country/Place** cards, students can read about various topics including monkey fishing in the Torres Strait and the significance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

In **Culture** cards, students can read and be informed about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. They can read a story from K’Gari (Fraser Island), learn about the importance of football to an Indigenous community in South Australia, and the significance of shell necklaces in some Aboriginal cultures.

In **People** cards, students have the opportunity to meet various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through first-hand accounts of their daily life and the people closest to them.
### Components

**Teacher’s Resource Book**

**Big Books**

**Cards**

### Features

**Country/Place**
- The Torres Strait Islander Flag
- The Australian Aboriginal Flag
- The Big Bull
- Bunya Nut Season
- Monkey Fishing with Meira

**Culture**
- Kiki’s Tadpoles
- Lola Greeno: Artist
- The Butterfly
- Koonibba Football Club
- My Kangaroo Dreaming

**People**
- Jayde’s Family
- Meira’s Family
- Michael’s Family
- Violet’s Family
- My Family

*Cover artwork not final*
The resources at Middle Primary level include a Teacher’s Resource Book, three Big Books and fifteen topic cards with six copies per topic.

The three Big Books – Country/Place, Culture and People – explore what Country means to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the importance of looking after Country; the many cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including language, family, food, stories and art; and the achievements of important Indigenous Australians in areas such as politics, sport, the arts and writing.

In Country/Place cards, students learn about the significance of Country to Indigenous peoples, the Welcome to Country ceremony, and about one of the oldest living cultures in the world.

In Culture cards, students have the opportunity to learn about the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions such as making possum skin cloaks, stories depicted in old rock paintings, and about the world’s first bakers.

In People cards, the focus is on key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals who have made an impact in Australia. The cards include AFL superstar Adam Goodes, ballet dancer Ella Havelka and journalist Stan Grant.
The resources at Upper Primary level include a Teacher’s Resource Book, three Big Books and fifteen topic cards with six copies per topic. Topics at this level focus on more complex and mature topics that fit into units of inquiry study or facilitate independent work.

The Big Books focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ connection to Country and explore the impact of colonisation. The books also feature remarkable Indigenous Australians from the past and present, and invite readers to recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

In Country/Place cards, students can learn about the devastating impact of the Stolen Generations, the courage of Edward ‘Koiki’ Mabo, as well as significant historical events in Australian history such as the Aboriginal Embassy, the Redfern and Apology speeches, and stories about important Indigenous soldiers.

In Culture cards, contemporary issues such as stereotypes and respecting culture are explored by young Indigenous writers, and creation stories are told through words and pictures.

In People cards, students learn about prominent people in areas such as contemporary Indigenous art, Indigenous media, and about brave Aboriginal resistance leaders.
Components

Teacher’s Resource Book

Big Books

Cards

Features

six-sided cards

Country/Place

Mission Days
Black Power and the Aboriginal Embassy
Edward Koiki Mabo
Two Important Speeches for Reconciliation
The First Tasmanians

Culture

Stereotypes
K’Gari: the Creation of Fraser Island
Respecting Culture
Travelling with Aunt
Hip-Hop and Rap: Telling Our Stories

People

Fighting for Country
Douglas Grant
Contemporary Indigenous Art
Our Mobs, Our Stories
Indigenous Media
Lisa Fuller
Lisa Fuller is a Wuilil Wuiili woman from Eidsvold, Queensland, also descended from Wakka Wakka and Gooreng Gooreng peoples. She is an editor, writer and winner of the 2018 David Unaipon Award.

Sally Lawrence
Sally Lawrence is an experienced teacher and has spent almost 20 years working as an educator in various roles within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. She also worked as an early childhood teacher, project officer, lecturer, researcher and author, and was the Manager for Indigenous Education in Queensland.

Shelley Ware
Shelley Ware is a descendant of the Yawkunytjatjara and Wirangu peoples from South Australia. Sally is a TV presenter on the Marngrook Footy Show and she is a primary-school educator.

Joanne Crawford
Joanne Crawford is a descendant of the Nhunda people. She is a primary-school educator and a children’s book writer.

Matilda Loban
Matilda Loban is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman with traditional connections to Badu and Poruma Islands of the Torres Strait.

Nai Nai Bird
Nai Nai Bird is an Elder of the Butchulla people from K’Gari (Fraser Island). She is a storyteller, a painter and an educator.

John Pearson
John Pearson is from the Yimithurr people of Cape York, Queensland. He is a writer on Aboriginal soldiers of the First World War.

Lawrence Bamblett
Lawrence Bamblett is a member of the Wiradjuri people of central New South Wales, and a scholar and lecturer at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Nayuka Gorrie
Nayuka Gorrie is from the Gunai/Kurnai, Gunditjmara and Yorta Yorta people of Victoria, and the Wiradjuri people of central New South Wales.

Scan the QR code to download a full list of authors.
### Your whole-school solution

#### Lower Primary | Middle Primary | Upper Primary
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**Teacher Resource Books**
- [Image](#)
- [Image](#)
- [Image](#)

#### Big Books
- [Image](#)
- [Image](#)
- [Image](#)

#### Cards
- [Image](#)
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#### Country/Place
<table>
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<td>The World's First Bakers</td>
<td>K'ari, the Creation of Fraser Island</td>
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<td>Dance Culture</td>
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For more information, visit nelsonprimary.com.au or contact aust.nelsonprimary@cengage.com.