# Learning notes for Palm Island & Our People

# Primary school (years 1-5)

State Library of Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which State Library is located and the Manbarra and Bwgcolman people of Palm Island. We pay respects to their Ancestors who came before them and to their Elders past, present and future. The location of State Library, on Kurilpa Point, was historically a significant meeting, gathering and sharing place for Aboriginal people. We proudly continue that tradition here today.

**English activities:**

* Read and discuss the ‘Big Snake’ creation story
* Investigate other creation stories from around Australia
* Listen and respond to the online stories and photos

**Resources:**

* The stories from the *Palm Island & Our People* showcase <https://slq.qld.gov.au/discover/exhibitions/palm-island-our-people>
* More creation stories can be investigated through the link below with study guides included <http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2570616/morning-star>
* Contemporary stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be accessed here <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/contemporary-stories>

**Guiding questions:**

* Ask students to reflect on the online stories
* What have students learnt that they didn’t know before?
* Ask students to share their own experiences of places that are special to them
* What makes a place special?

**HASS activities:**

* Using the Gambay languages map locate the Bwgcolman Nation. Students can then use the map to find out about the Traditional Custodians of the special places they know
* Find and discuss the different nations / language groups where people originated before they were moved to Palm Island

**Resources:**

* First Languages Australia, Gambay language map <http://www.gambay.com.au/>

(this resource includes teacher notes)

* State Library website

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages/indigenous-languages-map>

* History about reserves and missions in Queensland <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/community-history/missions>

**Guiding questions:**

* Do the students know any of the places discussed in the online stories and exhibition?
* What do they already know about some of these places?
* What were reserves and missions? Why did they exist? Why were people moved to these places?

**Design and technology activities:**

* Discuss and investigate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s understanding of their Country and place, and their use of natural fibres. Use the photos of the baskets, wooden implements and weapons for reference.
* Explore the characteristics and properties of materials that were used. Provide a range of natural materials for the students to design and produce a functional item of their own. In the development stage, ask them to identify what need they are designing for e.g. a vessel to carry water

**Resources**

* Resource from the exhibition (view activity sheet)
* The Orb <https://www.theorb.tas.gov.au/living-cultures/fibres>

**Guiding questions:**

* How did Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use the environment around them?
* Have the students seen any similar objects made from natural fibres in other places?

**Dance activities:**

* Watch the video footage of the Bwgcolman Dancers and Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers at the launch of *Palm Island & Our People*.
* Watch the videos of the Bwgcolman Dancers as they prepared the Palm Island community to learn a dance to be performed at the Deadly Didge n Dance fest. Discuss and practice specific dance moves.
* Find other dances by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, watch and discuss what the dances symbolise.
* Invite a member of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander dance or cultural group to explain the significance of song and dance in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

**Resources:**

* Footage of opening of *Palm Island & Our People* <https://slq.qld.gov.au/discover/exhibitions/palm-island-our-people>
* Bangarra teachers’ notes provide background and information about the purpose of dance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

<https://www.bangarra.com.au/whatson/productions/patyegarang>

* View Ken Thaiday Snr’s artwork and discuss the artist’s connections to culture, art, language and dance <https://youtu.be/IBjGkT7o0vw>