

NAME:

# Year 5 – Indigenous Australia Activities

## LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Read the 'Environmental Management' (page 32) section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

1. How did Indigenous Australians use fire for land management and why was it useful?
  
2. Why is traditional Indigenous knowledge of the land important?
  
3. What is environmental sustainability?
  
4. How did Indigenous Australians ensure they had plentiful food throughout the entire year?
  
5. The fact book identifies a number of tasks that Indigenous Australians carry out in collaboration with government departments. Choose three of these tasks and explain why they are important for sustainability.



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6. Draw an annotated diagram showing your understanding of traditional Indigenous land management. Use a full page and show some of the typical tasks that Indigenous Australians would have undertaken.



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7. Complete the Y diagram below, by describing what you think it would have looked like, sounded like and felt like in an Indigenous Australian community before European colonisation.

The diagram is a large 'Y' shape divided into three colored sections. The top horizontal section is yellow and contains the text 'SOUNDS LIKE' in the center. To the left of this text is an icon of an ear with sound waves, and to the right is an icon of a megaphone. The left arm of the 'Y' is light blue and contains the text 'LOOKS LIKE' in the center, with an icon of an eye above it. The right arm of the 'Y' is light grey and contains the text 'FEELS LIKE' in the center, with an icon of a brain above it.

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## LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Read the ‘Environmental Management’ (page 32) section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

### 1. How did Indigenous Australians use fire for land management and why was it useful?

Indigenous Australian peoples would burn off land in patches, which enabled them to maintain control over their environment. Using fire for land management ensured that wildlife and plant food sources were plentiful throughout the year. Burning off land in this way also decreased the chance of uncontrolled bushfires breaking out.

### 2. Why is traditional Indigenous knowledge of the land important?

Traditional Indigenous knowledge of the land is extremely important. Their intimate knowledge of Australian animals means they know which plants are preferred by which animals. This allows Indigenous Australian peoples to attract certain types of animals. In addition, their knowledge of plant species means they know the correct timing for burning off vegetation.

### 3. What is environmental sustainability?

Sustainability refers to the idea that human activity should be guided by the principle that the welfare of the environment and of future generations should always be considered. With regards to the environment, sustainability means interacting responsibly with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources to allow for long-term environmental quality.

### 4. How did Indigenous Australians ensure they had plentiful food throughout the entire year?

Indigenous Australians had a number of processes to ensure they had plentiful food throughout the entire year. First, they knew the correct timings for burning vegetation, thus ensuring it would grow back at the correct times. Second, they also grew yams, grains, fruits and berries and reared animals such as possums, emus and dingoes.

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5. The fact book identifies a number of tasks that Indigenous Australians carry out in collaboration with government departments. Choose three of these tasks and explain why they are important for sustainability.

Students may select any of the tasks below (taken from the fact book). Their explanations will differ depending on which tasks they choose.

- Protect and maintain cultural sites, stories and songlines;
- Perform cultural or customary activities;
- Create seasonal harvest calendars;
- Hunt for feral animals such as foxes, camels or cats which threaten the delicate ecosystem of the bush;
- Record new plants;
- Protect biodiversity;
- Remove seeds and weeds including invasive pests like African buffel grass;
- Remove rubbish left by tourists at camping spots;
- Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and earn carbon credits;
- Return threatened species to their native habitat;
- Manage controlled burns and set fire breaks to prevent devastating bush fires and protect outstations and sacred sites;
- Help with sustainable water management;
- Teach about their connection with the land, the seasons and bush foods;
- Take Indigenous Australian children out on country so they can learn from their elders