

Fun at home activity

Discovery Island headdress

Inspiration: Discovery Island is inspired by the new exhibition [Lag Meta Aus: Home in the Torres Strait](#) at the National Museum of Australia. The exhibition includes the British carrier plane headdress pictured below, made by Solomon Ahmat of Badu Island in 2005.



Torres Strait Islander people tell stories about their traditions and daily life through dance and costume. Some Islander headdresses are quite detailed sculptures. They are made from natural and man-made objects.

Activity: Imagine if your home was on a hot tropical island, surrounded by water! How different would your life be? What animals and plants are on your island? How would you travel around? What would your house be like? What would you play with and how would you entertain yourself?

Kids in the July 2014 Discovery Space thought about what it might be like to live on a tropical island and were encouraged to make an island scene headdress, then do a dance wearing their headdress in a virtual island scene. You can make your own headdress from everyday objects at home. Here are some ideas.

Time and difficulty: These activities are easy and can be completed in less than an hour.

Hint: If you are using objects around the home, make sure you ask an adult first. You might need help from an adult with cutting, gluing (especially if you are using hot glue) or tying string to attach things to your headdress.

This activity is good to do with a friend, as you can help each other fit the cardboard straps to your head.

What you need:

- two long strips of cardboard (about 4cm x 60cm)
- a small paper plate (about 15cm in diameter is ideal)
- stapler and scissors
- sticky tape, string or glue to help attach things to your headdress. If you have a hot glue gun at home, this works really well to attach things, but you will need an adult to operate as it can **burn your fingers**.
- decorative materials such as foam, feathers, fabric, shells, pegs, hoses, plastic, cellophane, paddle pop sticks or netting. In fact, you can use anything crafty that might be around.

Steps:

1. Think about what it might be like to live on a tropical island. What could you put on your headdress? Lay out your materials and have a think how you might best use them.



2. Take one of your long strips of cardboard and measure it around your head, just above your ears, to make your hatband. When you have the right size, hold the cardboard in place, take it off your head and staple it in place. Cut off excess cardboard.



3. Cut the second strip of cardboard in half, so you have two 30cm long strips. These will cross over the top of your head and attach to the hatband. Try the strips with the band on your head and if they are too long, cut off or fold under any excess cardboard. Staple into place.



4. Attach the paper plate to the top of your cross bands with a stapler. This is now the base of your headdress.



5. Decorate your headdress using the materials you have gathered. Use tape, glue or string or a combination of these to attach things to the plate. You could use paddle pop sticks to help support things to stand up and stay in place.

We used cardboard, paddle pop sticks and feathers to make a boat; a green foam tree supported by paddle pop sticks, and a wooden peg person dressed in fabric.

We also added shells and made a jellyfish (can you see them?)





6. You can now wear your headdress. Can you and your friend make up a dance to tell your island story?

Share your creation! Wear your Discovery Island headdress for all your friends and family to see. Share your creation with us by sending a photo to: schoolholidays@nma.gov.au. We will add your photo to the [National Museum's Flickr stream](#), where you can see other craft creations from our Discovery Space.

[More fun at home activities, videos and games on the Museum's website](#)