

Conclusions

- 1 What have you learned about the nature of resistance by Aboriginal Australians to the arrival of the Europeans to their area? Discuss your ideas.
- 2 The text introducing the exhibition in the National Museum of Australia reads:

'Duggai gulli yahngu – the whitefellas are here to stay.' (Yugambah community, south-east Queensland, 1872)

The lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were profoundly changed by the arrival of British colonists in 1788. Lives were lost and land taken as the colonisers attempted to impose new social, economic and religious orders. New animals, plants and diseases were introduced.

Indigenous people responded in a variety of ways. Some fought back with weapons. Others developed different strategies to survive this new and hostile presence. Here we present four of these stories.

'Ngulli yahnbai gulli bahn! – we are still here now!' (Yugambah community, south-east Queensland, 1986)

Museum curators have strict limits on the number of words that can be used in exhibitions. This summary contains 104 words. Write your own summary, using no more than 100 words. Compare your description with some others in your class. Discuss the difficulties you had in providing an accurate summary of the display and its ideas in so few words, and the strategies you adopted to try to overcome these problems and limitations.

- 3 There is not a story or case study of collaboration included, only of resistance and accommodation. One example that may seem to be active collaboration by Aboriginal people was the Native Police. Research an example of the Native Police in Australia. Suggest reasons why some Aboriginal people might have chosen this way of responding to the occupation.
- 4 Some history courses ask students to carry out a **site study**. A site study could involve analysing the way a museum represents the response of local Indigenous people to occupation. Use the table on page 52 to help you analyse the National Museum of Australia representation of the issue in this unit. You can also use it for a display in a local or regional museum.

- 4 Statue of Yagan, Perth. Photograph Cindy Hogan
C Photograph Lannon Harley, National Museum of Australia
- 5 I Photographs George Serras and Kipley Nink, National Museum of Australia
K Reproduced courtesy of *The West Australian*
- 6 A Photographs Charlotte Crombie and Lannon Hartley, National Museum of Australia
B Photographs Elizabeth Bright, National Museum of Australia
D Ivan Webster collection, WA Museum. Photograph Lannon Hartley, National Museum of Australia
- 7 E Photograph Lannon Harley, National Museum of Australia
F Photograph Chris Owen
J Batty Library
- 8 B State Library of Queensland
C Rory O'Connor, Yugambah Museum
- 9 F Photograph Hague Best
G Gold Coast City Council
H Yugambah Museum
J Photograph Lannon Harley, National Museum of Australia
- 10 A Northern Territory Archive Service NTRS 1706 CP 3
- 11 E Photograph George Serras, National Museum of Australia
F Photograph George Serras, National Museum of Australia
H Photograph Lannon Harley, National Museum of Australia
I National Library of Australia
K Photograph Lannon Harley, National Museum of Australia
L Photograph George Serras, National Museum of Australia
M Photograph Lannon Harley, National Museum of Australia

SITE STUDY — analysing a museum display

Aspects to consider	The museum display
What does the display show?	
Is the historical context explained clearly?	
Is the significance of this display clearly explained?	
Is there a variety of evidence displayed?	
Are the objects displayed authentic for that event or period?	
Are the text descriptions clear and informative?	
How is the display arranged?	
Do the surroundings influence my impression of the display?	
Is there a particular message being conveyed?	
Is the nature of the event clearly identified? (e.g. am I told if it is controversial or contested? Should I be?)	
If so, are various viewpoints clearly and fairly presented?	
Do I know where the evidence has come from and what sort of evidence it is? How do I know?	
Is it presenting a particular message to me, or is it allowing me to make my own judgements?	
Is its purpose to present objects (neutral), or to explain (impartial), or to argue a particular view (partisan)?	
At the end, do I feel that I really understand the situation?	
My initial impression of the display	
My final judgement about the display	