

Exploring Land and People in Australia over Time

tangled DESTINIES

What can the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition tell us about the Australian environment, and the relationship between land and people in Australia over time?

The *Tangled Destinies* exhibition at the National Museum of Australia presents a rich variety of objects and images that explore the relationship between people and land in Australia over time. Through them we can see some of the ways in which people have responded to the Australian environment over tens of thousands of years, and how the environment has been affected by people.

In this unit you can examine some major objects and images from the exhibition, and analyse what they tell us about:

- the ways Aboriginal people have related to and affected the land
- European responses to the strangeness of Australian flora and fauna
- the consequences of introducing new species of plants and animals into the environment
- how technological innovations were born of harsh necessities
- some environmental implications of Australia's urban development.

At the end you will be asked to draw together the information and understandings you have developed to make a statement about the overall theme of the exhibition.

Curriculum Guide: Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit students will be better able to achieve these learning outcomes that are common to most states' and territories' Society and Environment Key Learning Area:

Time, continuity and change (History)

- Understand some of the major events, people and developments in Australian history
- Identify some key forces for change and continuity
- Describe and explain lasting and changing aspects of Australian society and environments.

Place and space (Geography)

- Analyse attitudes to and impacts of introduced species and ideas on the environment
- Explain and predict variations in places over time by referring to processes that may affect natural and built features
- Explain consequences of human modifications of natural and built features of places
- Explain how interactions of various features contribute to the ways people identify with and value places.

Resources (Economics)

- Analyse relationships among resource use, economic growth, living standards and ecological sustainability.

The National Museum of Australia opened in March 2001 as part of the celebrations for the Centenary of Federation. The Museum employs a fresh and exciting approach to Australian history, culture and environment.

Each National Museum unit of work asks students to consider the stories and concepts behind Museum themes, objects and images, and can be used with students in Society and Environment, History, Geography and English.

