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(DDU performer Rob Thomas)

# **Study Guide for Didgeridoo Down Under Show: Australian Music - Education - Entertainment!**

**by Darren Liebman, DDU Founder / Owner/ Manager**

Imagine a mysteriously diverse and beautiful land on the entirely other side of the planet ...

A land of endless coastline, vast deserts, verdant forests and towering cliffs ...

A land containing some of the most unique and varied wildlife on earth ...

A land that's been inhabited for many thousands of years by mystical, nature-loving people, some of whom make and play a musical instrument called the didgeridoo, which sounds and looks as exotic as its name ...

The Land Down Under ...

the land called Australia!



## **The Land of Australia**

Australia is an island, country and continent located between the South Pacific and Indian Oceans in the area of the world known as Oceania. It's the world's largest island, the only island continent, and the only country that's a continent. It's the world's sixth largest country, but is the smallest continent, followed by Europe, Antarctica, North America, South America, Africa and Asia.

Australia is nicknamed The Land Down Under because it's located entirely in the Southern Hemisphere. It is named after the Latin word *australis*, which means "southern." It was once connected to what is now known as Antarctica, via the super-continent Gondwana; about 50 million years ago, it separated and drifted north. Because Australia and North America are located in opposite hemispheres, their seasons are reversed. Australia's east coast is 14-16 hours ahead of the

eastern U.S., depending on the month.

Australia is about the same size as the United States, minus Alaska and Hawaii, but has far fewer people. Australia, the world's sixth largest country, is home to approximately 25.5 million people (as of 2020), while the U.S. has a population of about 331 million (2020). Eighty percent of Australia's population lives along the coast.

Australia is the earth's flattest and driest continent, but includes a wide array of terrain: desert, mountains, swamps, rain forest (about one percent of the continent) and about 22,000 miles of coastline (more beaches than any other country). The vast desert area that takes up much of central and western Australia (about a third of the continent), including the Simpson, Gibson, Great Sandy and Victoria Deserts, is nicknamed the "outback." Uluru, a.k.a. Ayers Rock, the famous free-standing rock that sits near the country's center, is the world's second-largest monolith, measuring 1,000 feet high, 2.2 miles long and 1.5 miles wide. The tallest mountain is 7,310-foot Mount Kosciuszko, located in the Snowy Mountains range, New South Wales. The world's largest coral reef domain, the Great Barrier Reef, extends about 1,245 miles along the northeast coast. Australia's major rivers are the Murray and the Darling, located mostly in the southeastern part of the country.

Australia comprises six states – New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania (an island off the eastern-southern coast), Victoria and Western Australia – and two mainland territories, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. These territories function similarly to states, but the Commonwealth Parliament can override any legislation of their territorial parliaments. Australia also has several overseas territories, including two in Antarctica.

Australia has five cities of more than 1 million people each, as of 2011: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. Its capital is Canberra, located in the Australian Capital Territory. Other well-known cities include Darwin, Kimberley, Cairns, Hobart and Alice Springs. About 80 percent of Australia's population is located in the southeast, which includes Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

Australia has a tropical/warm climate year-round in the northern regions. The rest of the country is warm during the summers and cool during the winters. The Aussie interior gets extremely hot during the summer, with temperatures sometimes exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit.







## Australian Human History

Australia has two indigenous peoples: the Aboriginal people and the Torres Strait Islanders. Although these two cultures share many traits and traditions, they are distinct ethnic groups. Just as Native Americans were the first guardians of North America, the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are the original custodians of Australia. Indigenous Australians prefer to use the terms “Aboriginal person(s)” or “Aboriginal people(s)” rather than “Aborigine(s).” Many people consider “Aborigine(s)” to be culturally insensitive and offensive.

Australia was first settled by Europeans in 1788, when a fleet of about 1,500 British people, including 780 convicts, landed near present-day Sydney. Many of the prisoners were shipped to Australia for offenses such as speaking out against the government and defaulting on loans.

Since 1901, Australia has evolved from a colony of the United Kingdom to an independent and sovereign democratic nation. Australia Day (Jan. 26) is an annual celebration of Australia's nationhood, commemorating the ceremonious unfurling of the British flag at the head of Sydney Cove by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1788. Many Australians, however, have termed Australia Day as Invasion Day, in reference to the ensuing Aboriginal subjugation.



# The Aboriginal People

... have one of the longest continuously existing cultures on earth. Many scientists believe the ancestors of present-day Aboriginal people first arrived in Australia from Southeast Asia, via New Guinea, between 50,000 and 65,000 years ago. They probably traveled in small boats or rafts, and walking across islands whenever possible.

... traditionally do not call themselves Aboriginal. Different groups have different names, depending on which languages they speak and where they live. For example, the Koori people come from the Koori lands, in the modern-day states of Victoria and New South Wales, while the Murray people live in present-day Queensland. Instead of using these names, however, the first European settlers called all the original peoples Aborigines. "Aborigine" is derived from the Latin term *ab origine*, which means "from the beginning." Many indigenous Australians consider "Aborigine(s)" culturally insensitive and offensive.

... are very connected – physically and spiritually – with the land and the sea, and all the creatures in those environments. A common Aboriginal expression is "The land is my mother."

... believe spirit ancestors at the beginning of time created the world, all its creatures and the Aboriginal way of life, and that everything, past and present, is related. "Dreamings" are legends that tell of the experiences of the creation ancestors.

... are linked to the creation time and nature through their totems, which are animal or natural objects that symbolize a family or clan. Whatever a person's totem, he or she must learn everything about it and never destroy or eat it. This is one of the Aboriginal ways of conserving the environment and all its creatures.

... were once divided into at least 250 groups, with a common religion but different customs and languages. Peoples' lifestyles varied a great deal, depending on where they lived. Desert tribes moved often, over a wide area, in search of water and food. Groups in wetter areas stayed in a fairly small region, moving just two or three times a year. Each tribe occupied a certain homeland and respected the homelands of others. Permission was needed to travel through someone else's land.

More than two-thirds of today's Aboriginal people live in big cities, away from their ancestral homelands.

... still have more than 100 languages among all their different tribes, but all except about 20 are highly endangered. Aboriginal languages were traditionally unwritten. Therefore, painting, music, songs and ceremonies became – and remain – an important means of communication, by which to pass on traditions, laws and other information. Most Aboriginal languages are now written, and their main language is English.

... have the world's longest continuing art tradition, which began as rock art in Arnhem Land (located on the very central-northern tip of Australia) at least 28,000 years ago. They also would – and still do – paint on tree bark, ceremonial poles, artifacts and their bodies. X-ray style, portraying bone structure and internal organs, first arose about 6,000 years ago. Traditional colors are red (derived naturally from ochre), yellow (ochre), white (clay or chalk) and black (charcoal). Interestingly, Aboriginal dot art is a contemporary painting style that arose from the Papunya Tula art movement in the 1970s.



... used the boomerang as a hunting tool. But while many people mistakenly believe Aboriginal people used the boomerang primarily to hunt game, it was mostly used to kill birds or to direct them into nets.

In the latter situation, for instance, when a flock of birds was spotted, an Aboriginal hunter would imitate a hawk call. He or a hunting mate would then throw the boomerang above the birds, which would swoop down to elude the fake hawk and fly into strategically placed nets. Other Aboriginal hunting tools included clubs, spears and hunting (or throwing) sticks, which were thrown from a distance to take down large mammals or birds. A hunting stick, although similarly shaped to the boomerang, is lopsided on one side and not meant to return. Today boomerangs are mostly used for sport.

... had some permanent effect on the land, mostly from using fire to burn off old grass and make way for new green growth, and to flush animals out of the woods. This constant, controlled burning, traditionally used in small areas, created open woodlands for kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots and other game, and prevented undergrowth from building up to fuel huge, ultra-destructive wildfires. (Europeans had a much broader and detrimental influence on the land, by cutting trees for timber, clearing land for crops and overrunning grasslands with livestock.) In some parts of Australia, Aboriginal people, other landowners and national park rangers are returning to the use of "firestick farming" to prevent violent summer bushfires.

... experienced many cultural challenges, indignities and atrocities at the hands of the British soldiers and settlers, including racism, oppression, segregation, decimation and genocide. The Aboriginal people also lost most of their sacred land to non-indigenous people, and all of these issues have been extremely problematic for them ever since. They have suffered disproportionately high rates of depression, illiteracy, poverty, alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide. Even today, an Aboriginal person's life expectancy is about a decade less than that of a non-indigenous Australian!

... numbered between 315,000 and 1,000,000 people (estimates vary widely) at the time of European settlement in the late 1700s; as of 2016, there were about 800,000 indigenous people, which was about 2.5 percent of Australia's total population. Most of today's Aboriginal people are of mixed Aboriginal and white descent.

... had complex cultural, political and economic rules and edicts, but Europeans did not initially understand or appreciate these elaborate social systems. Most European colonists considered the Aboriginal people to be primitive and inferior, partly because of their dark skin and the fact that they didn't have any native written languages. (The Aboriginal people communicated orally, musically and artistically.)

... became Australian citizens in 1947, yet didn't gain equal voting rights throughout the land until 1965, when Queensland became the last Aussie state to pass equal suffrage laws. In 1971 Neville Bonner became the first Aboriginal to sit in any Australian Parliament. And it wasn't until 1992 that the Australia High Court first recognized native land title in Australia, by passing the Mabo decision.



Yet even today many Aboriginal people still face discrimination and prejudice, and are underprivileged economically, socially and politically.

... have had many inspirational leaders and role models, including land rights pioneer Eddie Mabo; author/public speaker/inventor David Unaipon; didgeridoo maker/player Djalu Gurruwiwi; NBA basketball player Patty Mills; track star Kathy Freeman; tennis champion Evonne Goolagong; and Tasmanian survivor of brutality Truganini.

... have their own distinct flag (below), created by Aboriginal artist Harold Thomas in 1971. The flag is designed with a black top half to represent the Aboriginal people; a red bottom half to represent the earth and the Aboriginals' spiritual relationship to the land; and a yellow sun in the middle, symbolizing the giver of life. Some people say the red represents blood, for the many thousands of Aboriginal people who died as a result warfare and disease after European colonization started in the late 1700s.

... can teach us all how to better live in harmony with the environment and all of its creatures, and just as importantly, how to live in harmony with ourselves.



(Aboriginal flag)

## Australian Animals

Australia is one of the world's 17 mega-diversity countries, according to Conservation International. It is home to about 280 species of mammals (including 150 types of marsupials, more than any other country); 750-plus species of native birds; and about 700 species of reptiles, including 140 types of land snakes, 30 sea snakes and 370 lizards.

Despite its abundance of unique fauna and flora, Australia has suffered ecological and environmental damage due to non-native species of animal and plants either escaping or being released into the wild. The dingo, Australia's wild dog, is believed to have been the first non-native animal Down Under. Although dingoes did, and still do, cause environmental damage, Australia was quite ecologically balanced until the late 1700s, when the first British settlers arrived and introduced a slew of non-native, havoc-wrecking creatures.

They brought sheep, cattle, goats, pigs and rabbits for food; cats and dogs for pets; foxes for hunting; and horses and camels for transport and exploration. These animals led to overgrazing, land erosion and predation of natural species. Many of these animals escaped and became feral.

But that was just the beginning of Australia's intrusive animal problems. Europeans later

imported water buffalo and deer for hunting and food, cane toads for insect control, and many more problematic creatures. Non-native predation of indigenous species, along with habitat destruction and water-supply fluctuation, has resulted in Australia having the world's highest mammalian extinction rate, according to *National Geographic*.

The United States and many other countries also suffer from environmental problems due to both feral and non-native animals. Lesson: Do not release any animal, either wild or tame, that does not already occur in the environment!

## Unique Creatures

Australia is home to countless unique animals. Here are some of the most well-known ...



**emu** – second largest bird in the world, behind the ostrich; too large to fly, but can run as fast as a galloping horse (about 30 mph).



**frilled dragon (frill-neck lizard)** – has folds of skin that form a large, colorful, fan-like collar around its head; when frightened, opens its mouth and makes a loud hissing noise as the frill opens up like an umbrella.





**kangaroo** – more than 40 species of this marsupial live Down Under, from small tree kangaroos (13-16 pounds), to the red 'roo, which can be as tall as a man and weigh 180 pounds.



**koala** – marsupial that eats almost exclusively eucalyptus leaves; diet is so low in energy that it sleeps up to 20 hours a day and rarely leaves safety of tree; "koala" means "no drink" in certain Aboriginal languages, because koalas obtain most of their water from eucalyptus leaves.



**kookaburra** – two species of this bird are the blue-winged kookaburra and the laughing kookaburra; the laughing kookaburra is the better-known and is often heard letting loose a loud, chuckle-like call.



**platypus** – one of only three egg-laying mammals on earth, it has a bill and webbed feet like a duck and waterproof fur like a seal; the male has venomous spurs in its hind ankles; walks with a lizard-like gait; has been around since the time of dinosaurs, more than 100 million years ago.



**saltwater crocodile** – world's largest members of the crocodylian family; can reach 20+ feet in length and is extremely ferocious; almost hunted to extinction before becoming protected species in 1972; smaller and much less dangerous freshwater crocs which are can also be found Down Under.



**short-beaked echidna** – also known as spiny anteater; one of only three species of egg-laying mammals, called monotremes (others are platypus and long-beaked echidna).





**Tasmanian devil** - Australia's largest marsupial carnivore; was common on mainland until about late 1500s, but today is only found in Tasmania; has aggressive temper when cornered or threatened, but is not considered dangerous to humans or domestic animals.



\***wombat** – burrowing, plant-eating marsupial resembling a small bear; two species include the common wombat and the southern hairy-nosed wombat; has rear-opening pouch, like koala; when disturbed or annoyed, kicks backward with both hind feet.

## Random Info about Australia

- Australia became a country in 1901 when six colonies federated to become the Commonwealth of Australia (still the official name). The government is a democratic, constitutional monarchy with a federal-state system.
- Britain's Statute of Westminster 1931 formally ended most of the constitutional links between Australia and the United Kingdom. The final constitutional ties between Australia and the UK were severed with the passing of the Australia Act 1986, ending any British role in the government of the Australian states.
- The Queen of England is still considered the official head of state, although it's mostly a ceremonial title. The Australian prime minister is actually the main decision maker, and many Australians want to eliminate the English monarch as the head of the state. Australians voted against becoming a republic in a 1999 referendum, but the issue continues to be divisive.
- The most popular sports Down Under include cricket, rugby, Aussie Rules football, basketball



and, of course, all water sports.

- The Australian dollar is its monetary unit.
- Major exports include wool, beef, lamb, coal, gold and iron ore.
- The world's largest cattle station, located in South Australia, is the size of Belgium.
- The Australian flag (below) is composed of three parts: the Union Jack (British flag), representing the initial European colonization by Great Britain, in the top left corner; the seven-pointed 'Star of Federation', representing Aus' six states and all its combined territories, in the bottom left corner, and the Southern Cross constellation, which can be seen from all of Australia's states and territories, taking up the right half.



(Australian flag)

## Aussie Lingo

Australians have many unique words and sayings. Here is a small sample ...

arvo – afternoon  
barbie – barbeque  
billabong – waterhole  
bloke – man  
brekky – breakfast  
brumby – wild horse  
buggered – exhausted  
bush – rural area  
bush tucker – wild edibles  
chewie – chewing gum  
cozzie – bathing suit  
crikey! – exclamation of surprise  
defo - definitely  
drongo – fool  
dunny – toilet  
fair dinkum – honest  
footy – Australian National Football  
g'day – hello

give it a burl – have a try at something  
go troppo – go crazy  
good on ya – well done  
greenie – environmental activist  
lippie – lipstick  
lollies – candies  
mate – buddy  
mozzie - mosquito  
no worries - no problem  
ripper – terrific  
sheila – woman  
sunnies - sunglasses  
thongs – flip flops  
tucker – food  
woop woop – middle of nowhere



# The Didgeridoo and Aboriginal Music

The didgeridoo is an Australian Aboriginal musical instrument that sounds and looks as exotic as its name. Usually a hollowed-out tree trunk, the didgeridoo, a.k.a. didge, is among the world's oldest instruments, and it produces a dynamic range of otherworldly sounds and tones.

The didgeridoo is classified as an aerophone woodwind instrument. It is usually a one-note instrument that can be played up or down by half a pitch according to mouth aperture. An experienced player will use his or her lips, tongue, cheeks, throat, vocal cords and diaphragm to coordinate sounds, rhythm and breathing.

The didgeridoo has been played for at least 1,500 years, and is mostly associated with the Aboriginal tribes of Arnhem Land in Northern Australia. Since then, the didge has spread among many Aboriginal tribes, and around the world.

Most traditional Aboriginal didgeridoos start as a branch or trunk of a eucalyptus tree that's been naturally hollowed out by termites, which nest by the trillions in Northern Australia. After cutting the branch or trunk to an appropriate length – most didges range between 4 and 5.5 feet, although some are much larger – the crafter cleans out any remaining termites and pulp, and styles the didge to his taste. He'll usually scrape off the bark and smooth the outside before decorating the didge with traditional artistry (often including Aboriginal symbols and indigenous Australian animals); or he'll leave the didgeridoo with a natural wooden finish. Finally, bee's wax is sometimes placed on the blowing end to create a comfortable mouthpiece.

"Didgeridoo" is actually an English onomatopoeic word, used to represent the sound that early explorers thought the instrument made. Other spelling variations include didgeridu, didjeridoo and didjeridu, or didg(e) for short. Two of many Aboriginal terms for didgeridoo are yidaki and yirdaki.

In Aboriginal culture, the didgeridoo is used in both ceremonies and informal settings, often as an accompaniment to chanting, singing and dancing. Traditional Aboriginal performances usually consist of powerful rhythms paced by one or more singers (one of whom is the lead songman), each with a pair of sticks or some percussion, and one didgeridoo. If a didge is unavailable, the piece can still be performed. Corroboree, an English version of the Aboriginal word caribberie, is used to describe Aboriginal ceremonies that involved singing and dancing.

In some Aboriginal tribes, the didgeridoo is only played by men, but in other tribes men, women and children all play it. Ceremonial didge playing, however, is almost always reserved for initiated men.

The music of traditional didgeridoo players is deeply related to the earth and their spirituality, and the interrelationship between these as understood through Dreamings (mythical Aboriginal stories that transcend their culture). The sounds of the instrument mimic sounds of the earth – of animals, humans and nature – and are filled with deep cultural meaning.

The Aboriginal people have more than 20 native sound instruments, most of which are percussive, such as clap sticks (clapping boomerangs can be used for the same effect), hollow log drums, skin drums, rasps, rattles, bull-roarers and sticks that are beaten on shields. In some tribes, stones are used instead of wood. Hand clapping and body slapping is used by singers of both sexes, sometimes as a substitute for clap sticks. The Aboriginal people have no traditional stringed instruments, although some stringed instruments are found in contemporary Aboriginal music. The only other native wind instrument besides the didgeridoo is the gum leaf (folded leaf whistle).





## Didge Lingo

**bull roarer** – free aerophone instrument made of a slab of wood usually shaped like a miniature surfboard that's attached to a long piece of chord at one end; the performer twirls the wood via the chord, which makes an eerie sound that Aboriginal people – and many other native peoples around the world – believe is the voice of an ancestor, spirit or deity.

**circular breathing** – technique for continuous playing of the didgeridoo, in which air is breathed through the nose while maintaining a drone.

**clap sticks** – Aboriginal instrument, also known as click sticks, used to keep rhythm with the didgeridoo; boomerangs are also sometimes clapped together in rhythm with the didge.

**drone** – continuous humming sound caused by softly vibrating the lips on the didgeridoo mouthpiece, it's the foundation of all didge playing.

**eucalyptus** – chiefly Australian evergreen tree that is favored by the Aboriginals for making didgeridoos; Australia is home to about 500 species of eucalyptus trees, and certain eucalyptus leaves are koalas' main food source.

**tonguing** - method of rhythm in which the tongue is quickly snapped to the front, top, and bottom of the mouth to add texture to a rhythm.

**trill** – didge-playing technique in which the player rolls the tongue (similarly to rolling r's in Spanish dialect); turns a basic drone into an unusual, growl-type sound.

**vocalizing** - using voice to make sounds through the didgeridoo while droning.



## How to Make & Play a Didgeridoo (hands-on activity)

Students can use a cardboard tube or another household item in place of a real didgeridoo. Many of these reusable items are featured in this video: <https://vimeo.com/420231510>.

Cardboard tubes can be collected from the inside of gift wrap rolls, or they can be ordered from [www.papermart.com/p/brown-mailing-tube/1190](http://www.papermart.com/p/brown-mailing-tube/1190). There are 50 brown mailing tubes per case. I recommend an interior dimension of 1.5 inches, and a length of 30 inches or 36 inches (these will sound better). Two strips of painter's tape around the inside of the rim makes a simple mouthpiece.

For decorating, think of the didgeridoo as a tubular art canvas. Use permanent markers or acrylic paint to create a decorative theme, such as Australian animals, marine life, astronomy ... or whatever inspires you. Add texture and details by gluing on leaves, stones, stickers, cut-outs and other items.

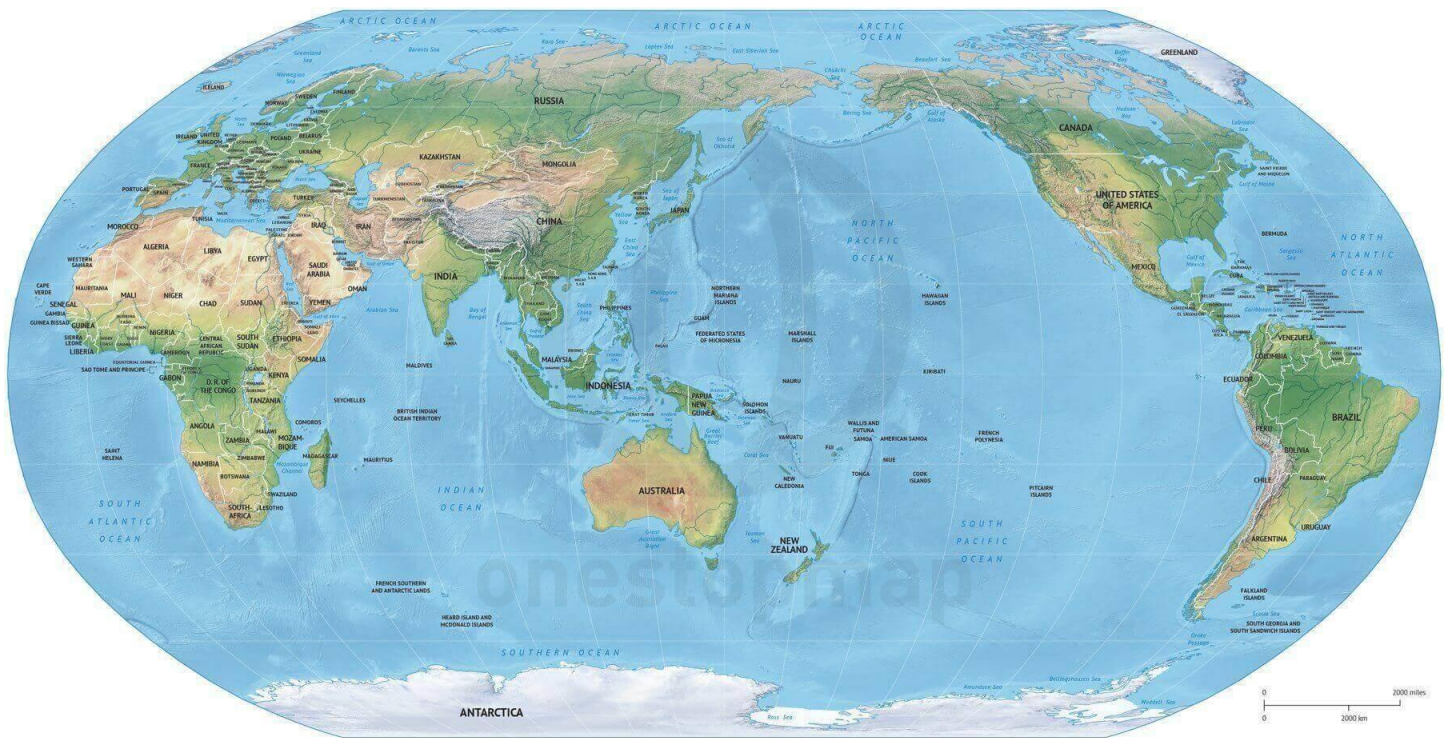
Examples of household items that can be used are:

- inside tube of a gift wrap roll (cheap and usually sounds good)
- PVC pipe (great to use if you already own it, but don't recommend buying b/c it's not Earth friendly)
  - paper towel rolls taped together (one paper towel roll is too short to sound good)
  - pool noodle (these usually have a very narrow hole, and have limited sound range)
  - vacuum hose (be sure to clean it first)

Basic didgeridoo-playing instruction ...

The fundamental vibrational sound, known as a drone, is made by loosely buzzing the lips inside the didgeridoo mouthpiece as if giving a raspberry kiss. The key is relaxation and loose lips. You'll know if you are droning by the tingling sensation in your lips and mouth. Once you can drone for at least five consecutive seconds, try to use your tongue and or vocal cords to make additional sounds. Try barking, yipping, tongue-rolling, trilling ... while droning. (If you just yell into a didgeridoo, it becomes a really lousy megaphone.) Droning and making sound are just the beginning of learning how to play the didge. More advanced techniques include circular breathing and rhythmic breathing. Thankfully there are many instructional videos online.





## Educational Lessons & Activities

**Social Studies:** Study Aboriginal culture and the hardships they've had to overcome, similar to the United States' Native American and black populations.

**Geography:** Study Australia on a globe and a map. Pinpoint all states, territories, major cities and landmarks. Learn about its diverse ecological systems and what makes it such a unique continent. Create timelines to answer questions (ex. Aboriginal arrival; European arrival; settlement, etc.)

**Music:** Construct and learn to play didgeridoos (instructions in section above). Listen to and study traditional Aboriginal music and music from other indigenous cultures.

**Art:** Construct and decorate didgeridoos. Study and create the different styles of Aboriginal art, including bark paintings, X-ray and dots.

**Reading & Writing:** Get acquainted with the correct meaning, spelling and pronunciation of the Didge Lingo and other previous sections. Study and report on any Australia-theme readings, such as those in the didgiography (below).

**Science:** Learn about the animals of Australia and their unique characteristics. Contrast the ecological problems created by non-native and feral animals Down Under and the environmental trouble caused by similar pest animals in the United States.

**Math:** Compare Australia vs. U.S. by numbers / ratios for population, miles (to/from/within Aus), land mass, coastline, beaches, highest & lowest point, hottest & coldest place, animals (mammals, birds, marsupials, etc), landmarks (ex. Great Barrier Reef vs. Florida Keys reefs).

## Web Links

(for planning classroom lessons)

Aboriginal Art, History & Culture: [www.indigenoustralia.info](http://www.indigenoustralia.info)

Aboriginal Musical Instruments: [www.didjshop.com/austrAboriginalMusicInstruments.htm](http://www.didjshop.com/austrAboriginalMusicInstruments.htm)

Australian Didgeridoo Cultural Hub: [www.ididj.com.au](http://www.ididj.com.au)

Australian Museum: [www.australianmuseum.net.au](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au)



## Didgiography

(minimum reading level in parentheses)

- Aboriginal Australians: Spirit of Arnhem Land* by Penny Tweedie, New Holland Publishers, Australia, 1998. (middle school)
- And Kangaroo Played his Didgeridoo* by Nigel Gray, Scholastic Publishing, Sydney, NSW, Australia, 2005. (early childhood)
- Australia: The People* by Erinn Banting, Crabtree Publishing Company, New York, 2003. (elem)
- Australian Dreamings Teacher's Guide*, Crizmac, Tuscon, Arizona, 1996 (elementary)
- Blood on the Wattle* by Bruce Elder, New Holland Publisher Pty Ltd., Frenchs Forest, New South Wales, Australia, 2003. (high school)
- Celebrate Australia* by Ken Duncan, Ken Duncan Panographs Pty Ltd., Wamberal, NSW, Australia, 1998. (elementary)
- Dreamings: The Art of Aboriginal Australia* edited by Peter Sutton, Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia, 1989. (middle school)
- Dreamkeepers* by Harvey Arden, HarperCollins Publishers, New York, 1994. (high school)
- Encyclopedia of Australian Wildlife* by Steve Parish, Steve Parish Publishing Pty Ltd., Archerfield, Queensland, Australia, 2000. (elementary)
- Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo* by Alison Lester, Houghton Mifflin / Walter Lorraine, United States, 2001. (elementary)
- From Alice to Ocean* by Robyn Davidson and Rick Smolan, Penguin Books Australia Ltd., Ringwood, Victoria, Australia, 1992. (middle school)
- Koala Lou* by Mem Fox, Penguin Group, Camberwell, Victoria, Australia, 1988. (elementary)
- Mutant Message Down Under* by Marlo Morgan, HarperCollins Publishers, New York, 1994. (middle school)
- Pheasant and Kingfisher* by Catherine Berndt, Mondo Publishing, New York, 1994. (elem)
- The Aboriginal Peoples of Australia* by Anne Bartlett, Lerner Publications Company, Minneapolis, 2002. (elementary)
- Voices of the First Day* by Robert Lawson, Inner Traditions International, Rochester, Vermont, 1991. (high school)

### Additional research material

- Australia* by Paul Smitz and others, Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd, Footscray, Victoria, Aus, 2005
- The Oxford Essential Dictionary*, American edition, Oxford University Press, Inc., New York
- The World Book Encyclopedia*
- Webster's New World College Dictionary*, fourth edition, Wiley Publishing, Inc., Cleveland, OH
- National Geographic magazines and maps
- Numerous web sites and CDs

## DIDGERIDOO DOWN UNDER

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