Main Topic: Country
Sub Topic: Coast

- Read Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island picture books which relate to the sea.
  - *Dabu the Baby Dugong*
  - *Betty and Bala and the Proper Big Pumpkin*
  - *You and Me, Our Place*
  - *Fishing in the Torres Strait*
  - *Wandihnu and the Old Dugong*
  - *Nardika Learns to make a Spear*
  - *Crabbing at High Tide*
  - *Joshua and the Two Crabs*

- Using the *Aboriginal Languages Map* of Australia, identify the Country where these stories come from.

- Identify other Aboriginal groups whose country includes the sea:
  - Bardi People - Dampier Peninsular
  - Wudjari - Esperance
  - Torres Strait Islanders - Torres Strait Islands
  - Malgana - Shark Bay
  - Yamatji - Geraldton area

- Read about people whose lives revolve around the sea in *Our World : Bardi Jaawi : Life at Ardiyooloon* by the One Arm Point Remote Community School.

- *Burarra Gathering* is an interactive website where students can make a virtual visit to a community in Arnhem Land and experience fishing and tracking animals. [http://burarra.questacon.edu.au/home.html](http://burarra.questacon.edu.au/home.html)

- How do the Aboriginal peoples connected to the sea or rivers, find food? What transport, artefacts or tools do they use? For example fish traps, nets, weirs, canoes, eel traps, fishing lines and hooks, spears, various watercraft, natural poisons or chemicals which deoxygenate the water.

- Learn about people whose lives revolve around the sea by watching the video *The Torres Strait Islanders*.

- What can you learn about Aboriginal people in coastal environments by listening to songs such as:
  - *My Island Home* by Warumpi Band or Christine Anu
  - *Fishing in Daytime* by Scrap Metal

- Look at the artwork from one or more of the above Aboriginal groups. Does the art depict the peoples’ relationship to the sea? Does the art depict their Creation or Dreaming Stories?

- The *Saltwater and Redearth Dreaming Activity Pack* contains artwork with a coastal theme, from the Dampier Peninsular, north of Broome. Students can colour in blackline masters of the artwork and at the same time learn a bit about the lifestyle of the Bardi people, including some language.
- Watch *Road Open* DVD to find out about Aboriginal students in the Kimberley Catholic schools and their communities. Collect information from schools in different regions. Compare lifestyles on the coast eg Beagle Bay and Lombadina to the river eg Gibb River and Wyndham to the desert eg Balgo and Billiluna. Transfer the information gathered to a Venn Diagram.

- Learn the song and dance from Lombadina on the *Road Open* DVD. What can you learn from the words and actions?

- Students research, compare and contrast the lifestyles of Aboriginal groups from a range of environments. Include information on climate, food, water, clothing, customs, shelter and Dreaming Stories.


- Read about Shell Middens in the book *Postcards* from the Scholastic Reconciliation kit.

- Students research and create a presentation on Aboriginal owned and run industries that are linked to coastal environments such as pearl farming, fishing, oyster farming, aquaculture, trochus shell industry, crocodile farming and tourism.


### Resources


- Berolah, L. & Collins, L. & Cristaudo, N. *Betty and Bala and the proper big pumpkin*. University Queensland Press, St Lucia, QLD. 1996


- Ishiguchi, P. *Crabbing at High Tide*. Magabala Books, Broome, 2001


• Noonuccal, O. *Stradbroke Dreamtime*. Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1982.


• *The Torres Strait Islanders (video)*. Visual Media, Sydney, 1993. 28min.


• *Road Open* (DVD). Catholic Education Office WA. Leederville. 2003