Main Topic: Technology  
Sub Topic: Communication

- Mind map: the many ways that people communicate
  - Verbal: talking, language, storytelling, songs, noise
  - Non-verbal: sign language, facial expressions, body language, tracking symbols, sand stories, smoke signals, mime, movement, art

- Discuss the reasons why people communicate
  - to convey information
  - to socialise
  - to satisfy needs

- In Aboriginal societies much communication is done through dance, storytelling and art. See the Arts section for more ideas that link to Communication.

- Aboriginal peoples all over Australia used the message stick as a means of communicating between groups. There is a general description at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Message_stick

- The poster Noongar Workers in Communications from the NNBNN kit, documents the changing ways Noongar people have been involved in communications through the years, from message sticks to mobile phones.

- The poster describes how Noongar people were responsible for carrying and delivering messages for the Europeans in the 19th century.

- Listen to the song Corrigration Road from the musical by Jimmy Chi. The character in the song is looking back at his life and sings “I walked the mail from Beagle Bay, up to Lombadina in the day... Find out what you can about when this was and why he was taking the mail.

- Invite an Aboriginal guest presenter to assist students make a message stick. Students write the procedure to document the steps taken in making a message stick.

- In some areas of Australia, like the Goldfields, Aboriginal people wrote messages and told stories in the sand. Invite an Aboriginal guest presenter to discuss and demonstrate sand writing, if appropriate.

- Discussion: how songs are used to communicate, both then and now.
  - Listen to a song in a traditional Aboriginal language and have a guest presenter identify what the song is communicating
  - Listen to a song by a contemporary Aboriginal artist and identify what the song is communicating

- Research technologies which are being developed which allow Aboriginal peoples to communicate more effectively. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using higher levels of technology for people in a remote setting, eg.
  - Access to IT support
  - Connection speeds which are reliable
○ Cultural considerations of what knowledge goes out onto the web
○ Promotion of local communities, industries and businesses
○ Better access to information for students
○ Online catalogues and shopping
○ News and information

Resources

• *Nidja Noongar Boodjar Noonook Nyininy* (This is Noongar country you are sitting in) (kit). Catholic Education Office WA & Murdoch University, Perth, 2000.