



NAIDOC 2017

NAIDOC WEEK | 2–9 July

ACTIVITY PACK

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NAIDOC WEEK 2017

Each year, NAIDOC Week celebrations highlight the rich and diverse culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples — the First Australians.

NAIDOC Week celebrations and community events are a great opportunity for all Queenslanders to come together and acknowledge the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

This year NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held from **Sunday 2 July** to **Sunday 9 July** 2017.

This year's theme – *Our Languages Matter* – aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

Some 250 distinct Indigenous language groups covered the continent at first (significant) European contact in the late eighteenth century. Most of these languages would have had several dialects, therefore the total number of named varieties would have run into the many hundreds.

Today only around 120 of those languages are still spoken and many are at risk of being lost as Elders pass on. This year's theme plays a valuable role in the importance of maintaining and reviving language so it is not lost.

NAIDOC Week is celebrated nationally across Australia.

The aim of the week is to celebrate and promote a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture.

This Activity Pack has been designed as a fun resource for organising NAIDOC Week events. It contains general information about event organisation ideas for a range of activities, and fun kids activities.

HISTORY OF NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee: the mob responsible for organising activities nationally.

NAIDOC has its origins in the fight for Aboriginal citizenship rights and better living standards, going back to the 1920s and 1930s. It's been called many things over the years – including Day of Mourning and Aborigines Day.

The first Day of Mourning was held on Australia Day 1938 – 150 years to the day after the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney.

This day of observance moved to July in 1955.

In 1991, Torres Strait Islanders were included; the group became NAIDOC, and focus shifted to recognition and celebration of cultures.

NAIDOC has been a week-long national celebration ever since.

Follow the history trail by visiting the [NAIDOC website](#).

DEADLY WAYS TO CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK

Below are just some ideas about how you can become involved in NAIDOC Week with specific activities and other more general ideas to get your community involved.

The success of NAIDOC Week is dependent upon groups organising events which are meaningful and appropriate to their specific communities, so be as creative as you wish in coming up with activities.

- Hold a flag raising ceremony of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags
- Organise a group to make a quilt with messages about NAIDOC Week focusing on this years' theme — Our Language Matters
- Hold a NAIDOC Week breakfast, morning tea or lunch and invite local Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members and organise for a guest speaker
- Listen to Indigenous music or radio stations
- Study a famous Indigenous Australian
- Find out about the Traditional people from your area
- Learn the meanings of local or national Aboriginal place names
- Invite an Indigenous artist to paint a mural
- Study Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts
- Make your own Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander art
- Read a dreamtime story
- Start your own Indigenous Hall of Fame featuring any local role models and achievers
- Visit Indigenous websites on the internet to learn more about their cultures
- Make your own Indigenous Trivia Quiz
- Visit local Indigenous sites of significance or interest
- Prepare damper or Indigenous dishes
- Plant a native Australian plant
- Create a website page showing your local NAIDOC Week activities
- Hold a writing competition based around the important issues of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Organise a poster competition and ask a local identity to present the prize
- Sponsor a children's essay competition through your local school. Display the essays in your local library or community centre
- Display Indigenous artefacts
- Hold basket-making workshops
- Organise Indigenous inspired face painting
- Organise an event such as an art display, photographic exhibition, sporting match or music concert
- Organise an information session with displays, discussion groups and information on services and products
- Hold a certificate of appreciation for Indigenous people who have contributed to building a better understanding and relationship between the community and Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people
- Arrange a display at a local shopping centre or central public area showcasing the achievements of local Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people
- Hold a launch at a local shopping centre or central public area to celebrate NAIDOC Week, inviting speakers to talk about what NAIDOC Week means
- Arrange to have NAIDOC Week messages displayed on billboards around your community. Your local Council, Queensland Transport or the Queensland Police Service may be able to assist
- Hire or buy a badge-making machine and make up badges using 'NAIDOC Week' or make up your own NAIDOC Week message
- Organise a film night, with a film appropriate to the purpose of NAIDOC Week
- Contact your local schools and encourage NAIDOC Week activities with the children such as a school play on a relevant subject matter
- Make a banner for NAIDOC Week and have it displayed over the main street of your town or city
- Organise a banner-making workshop
- Launch a new initiative or resource during NAIDOC Week
- Use street theatre, mime, dance, a rap contest and poetry to promote NAIDOC Week
- Organise a clothesline project where people write or draw messages about NAIDOC Week on t-shirts and hang or display them in a prominent place.

ABOUT THE ABORIGINAL FLAG

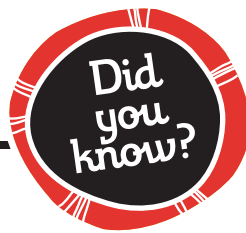


The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia.

It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people during the land rights movement of the early 1970s.

The symbolic meaning of the flag colours are:

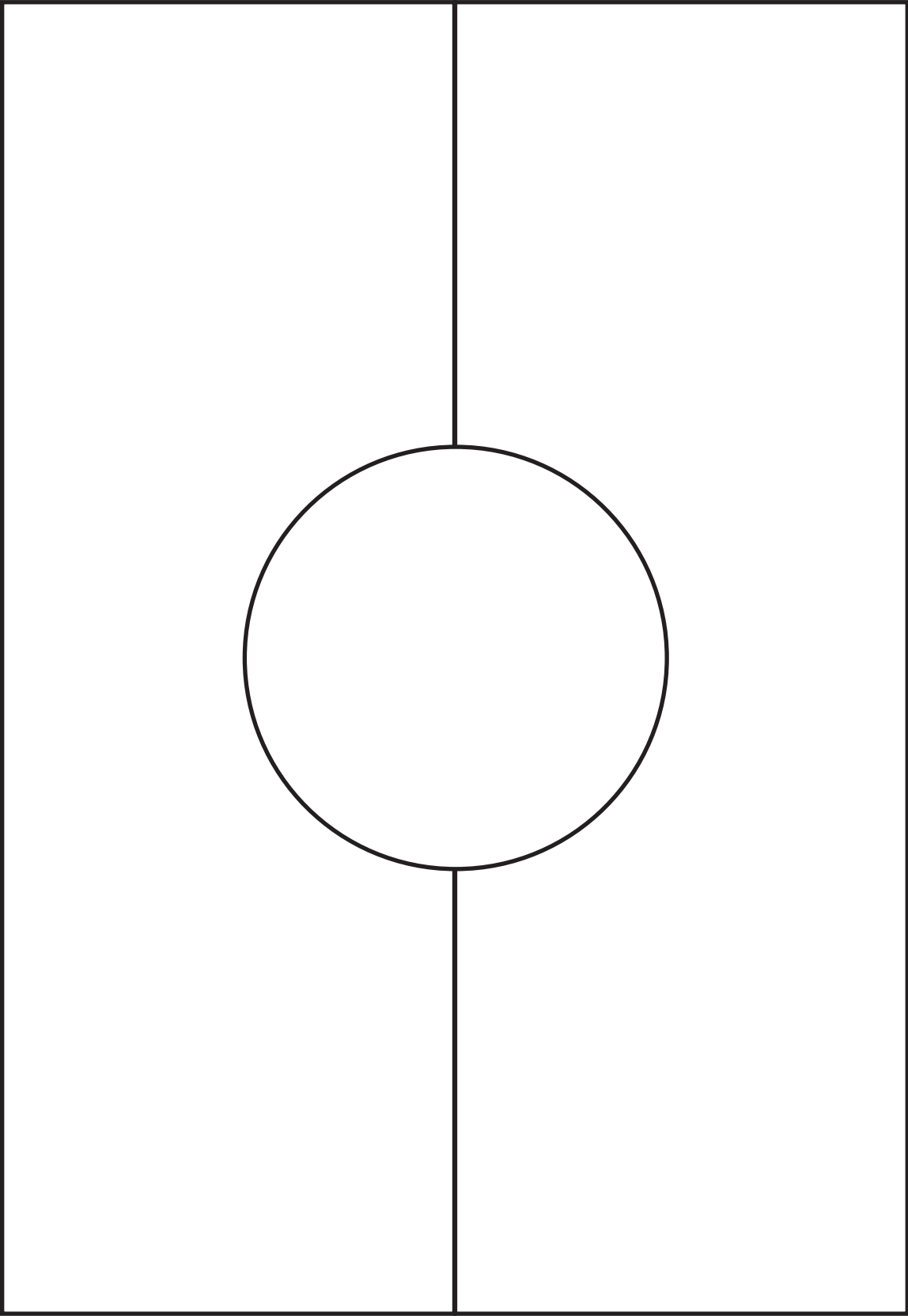
Black	Aboriginal people of Australia
Red	earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relation to the land
Yellow	sun, the giver of life and protector.



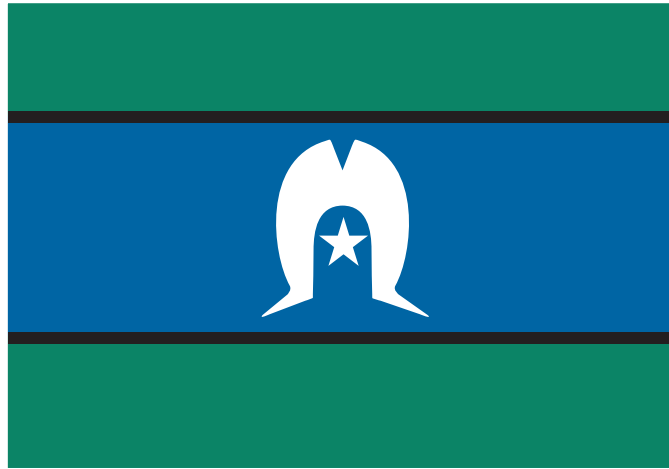
- Language holds the key to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's history and is linked to cultural and spiritual identity.
- More than 700 different Aboriginal languages and dialects were spoken in Australia before European settlement.
- Today, less than 250 languages are still spoken.
- European settlement interrupted the passing of language from one generation to another.
- Today, language lives on through individual words and varieties of Aboriginal English incorporating structures of Aboriginal language.



Have fun and colour-in your very own
Aboriginal inspired flag.



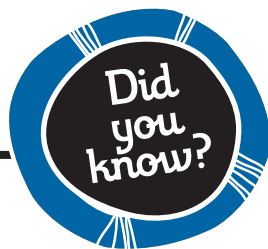
ABOUT THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG



The Torres Strait Islander flag is attributed to the late Bernard Namok of Thursday Island and was formally adopted in 1992.

The symbolic meaning of the flag colours are:

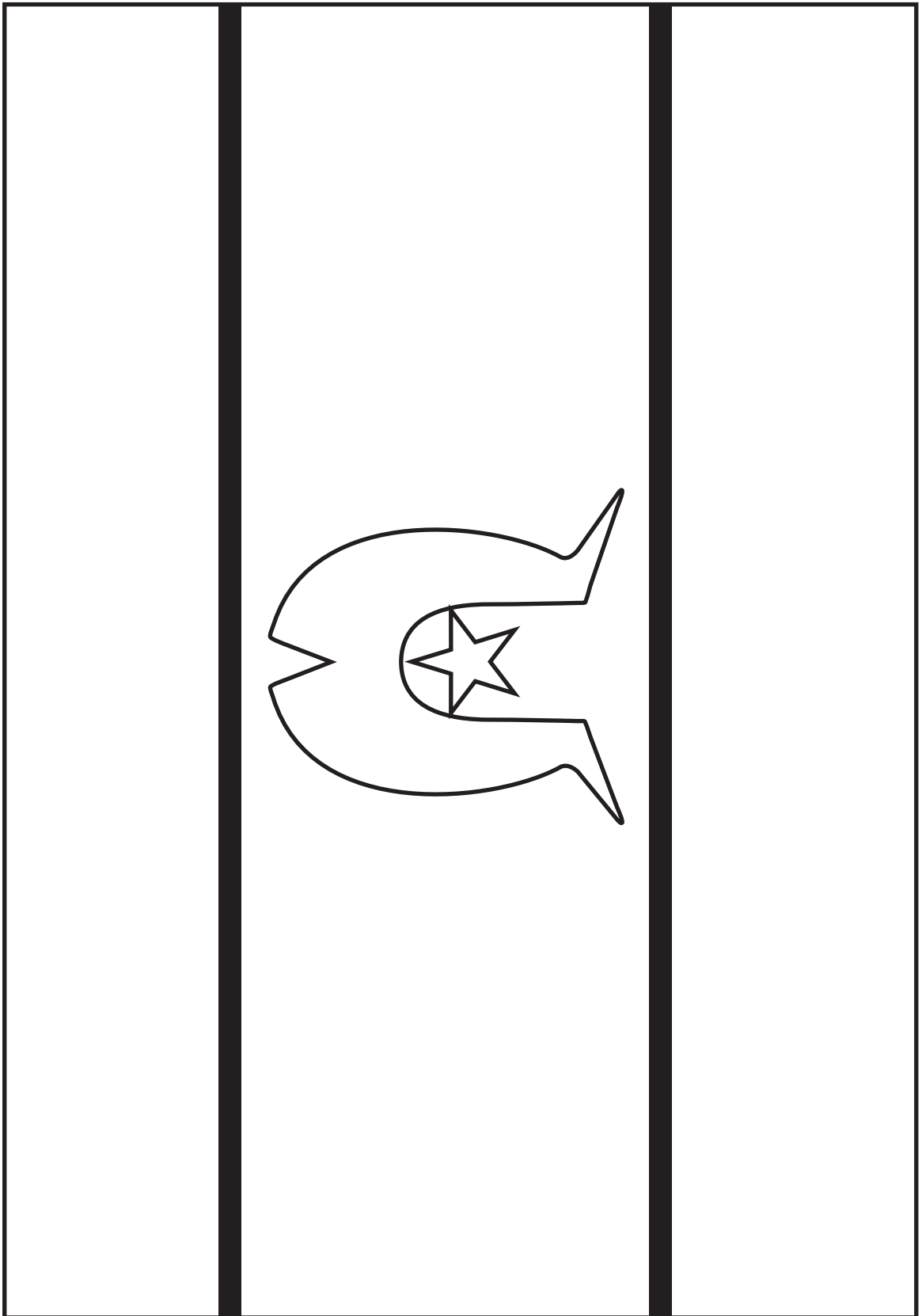
Black	Torres Strait Islander people
White	peace (star: five major island groups, dhari: island custom)
Green	northern and southern mainlands
Blue	waters of the Strait that nourish both spiritually and physically.



- English is a foreign language in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and in some cases the third language spoken.
- Two broad languages in the Torres Strait are the Western and Eastern language.
- A third language spoken in the Torres Strait is Creole—also referred to as Yumplatok.
- The Western language group incorporates four dialects: Kalaw Lagaw Ya, Kalau Kawau Ya, Kulkalgau Ya and Kawalgau Ya.
- The Eastern language group is called Meriam Mir.



Have fun and colour-in your very own Torres Strait Islander inspired flag.



INSTRUMENTS & ARTEFACTS



Clapsticks

Clapsticks are the traditional percussion instrument of all Aboriginal people, providing rhythm in song and dance. They consist of two sticks made from various woods.

They create a beautiful, sharp sound when clapped together and their decorative designs on each one tells its own story. Unlike the didgeridoo, clapsticks are played by both men and women.



Drum

The Torres Strait Islands has its own traditional drum which is called the 'Warup'. The drum is carved and hollowed from driftwood and is integral to the social, political and cultural events in a Torres Strait Islanders' life.

Drums were decorated with traditional marking and tufts of feathers of local birds and some are built to represent totems such as shark, crocodile and many more. Warups are used for celebrations, island dancing and singing. An experienced player can tune the Warup a bit like tuning a guitar.



Boomerang

The boomerang is a throwing weapon used primarily for hunting and fighting as well as sport. It is also used for digging and clearing, fire making, trade, ceremonies and music making.

The shape and size vary depending on its function but can be grouped into categories of returning, non-returning, hunting and ceremonial. They are shaped from timber and great care is taken to select the appropriate branch or tree root for the correct angle and grain. The ends of the returning boomerang are grooved on the underside to act as an aerodynamic aid. The non-returning boomerang or hunting boomerang is longer, has a shallower curve and is usually thicker than the returning variety.



Dhari

The Dhari is the distinctive traditional dance and ceremonial headdress of the Torres Strait. It features on the region's flag and symbolises the identity and unity of all Torres Strait Islanders.

Dhari is the Meriam Mir word for 'headdress' and is used in the eastern islands. In the central and western islands where Kala Lagaw Ya is spoken, the headdress is called Dhoeri. Customarily worn and made by males, dhari designs vary from island to island.

Dharis or Dhoeris were traditionally made from Frigate Bird and Torres Strait Pigeon feathers but are now made from a wide and often creative range of materials including heavy cardboard, plywood, chicken feathers and cane.

When wearing dharis at night for performances, the dancers shake their heads to vibrate the spokes, causing a brilliant shimmering effect, described as being like the glint of a pearl shell dropped in water.

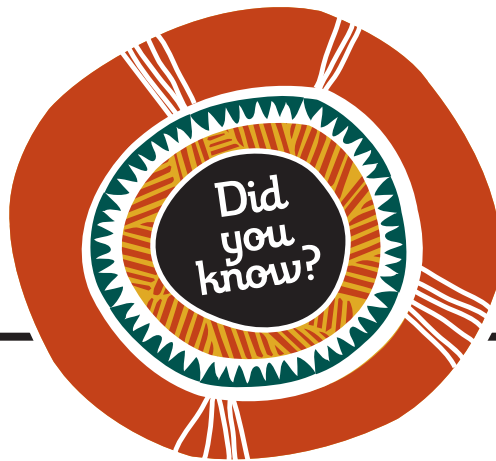


Ingredients

- 250g sugar
- 250g butter
- 500g sifted self-raising flour
- 4 eggs or 1/3 Emu egg
- 25g ground [lemon myrtle](#)

Method

1. Cream together sugar and butter
2. Add the eggs to the creamed butter one at a time
3. Fold in flour and myrtle until combined
4. Roll into small balls
5. Flour a fork and press the batter lightly into the tray
6. Bake in a moderate oven (180–190°C) for 12 to 15 minutes.



MY PLACE MEANS...

Many suburbs and towns throughout Queensland carry names taken from Aboriginal languages. Could your place?

Here are some:

Indooroopilly	→	gully of leeches
Coochiemudlo	→	red rock
Toowoomba	→	place of meeting
Kowanyama	→	many waters
Quilpie	→	curlew
Yeronga	→	sandy place
Boulia	→	water hole
Yungaburra	→	Queensland silver ash tree
Goondiwindi	→	duck droppings (reference to a roosting place on the river)



WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words and phrases?

Community

Respect

Connect

Deadly

Fun

Elders

Songlines

Celebrate

Our mob

Welcome

Family

Dance

Harold Thomas

Culture

Yarn

First Nations

Story

Country

Bernard Namok

C	O	N	N	E	C	T	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	H
O	D	G	J	S	O	N	G	L	I	N	E	S	P	A
U	H	B	D	I	M	O	R	N	C	L	I	S	H	R
N	A	R	Y	T	M	O	I	R	E	C	O	U	R	O
T	A	K	I	D	U	M	W	E	L	C	O	M	E	L
R	E	O	R	E	N	U	I	L	E	L	Y	P	S	D
Y	D	U	I	A	I	G	H	D	B	F	O	O	P	T
V	I	R	T	D	T	L	O	E	R	C	S	I	E	H
F	A	M	I	L	Y	L	H	R	A	T	T	O	C	O
U	M	O	B	Y	A	R	N	S	T	O	R	Y	T	M
N	R	B	A	A	D	A	N	C	E	H	M	V	X	A
W	E	L	F	I	R	S	T	N	A	T	I	O	N	S
J	I	B	E	R	N	A	R	D	N	A	M	O	K	S
Q	U	I	B	R	S	O	P	M	E	O	N	T	I	W

Damper

You can make damper in the oven or on a campfire. You can even add fruit to make it nice and sweet, or cheese to make it extra tasty!

Ingredients

3 cups self raising flour
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 180 ml milk – if the mixture is too dry,
 add a little more milk
 1 teaspoon castor sugar
 1/3 cup chilled butter, chilled extra flour
 as needed

Method

Mix the flour, salt and sugar together into a bowl.

1. Rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips
2. Add milk slowly and mix to form a soft dough
3. Knead lightly on a floured board until smooth. Shape into a round loaf, brush with milk and cut a cross in the top surface of the dough.

...for oven cooking

Grease and dust with flour a round cake tin or a flat baking pan.

Place dough in the pan and bake in a preheated oven at 190° C (375° F) for 30– 40 minutes.

...for campfire cooking

Grease the camp oven (Dutch oven) and dust with flour. Add bread dough and cover.

Place in your campfire, cover with hot ashes and coals and bake for about 30 minutes.



PATHWAYS OF OUR ANCESTORS

The colour-in activities on the following pages are based on a large mural. We've cut it into five panels for you, so you can choose which totem animal you'd like to colour in. Or you can do them all, cut them out and stick them together to make your very own mural artwork!

This artwork is very special because the artist has used symbols to tell a story about the lands and cultural pathways of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, that span many different language groups throughout Country.

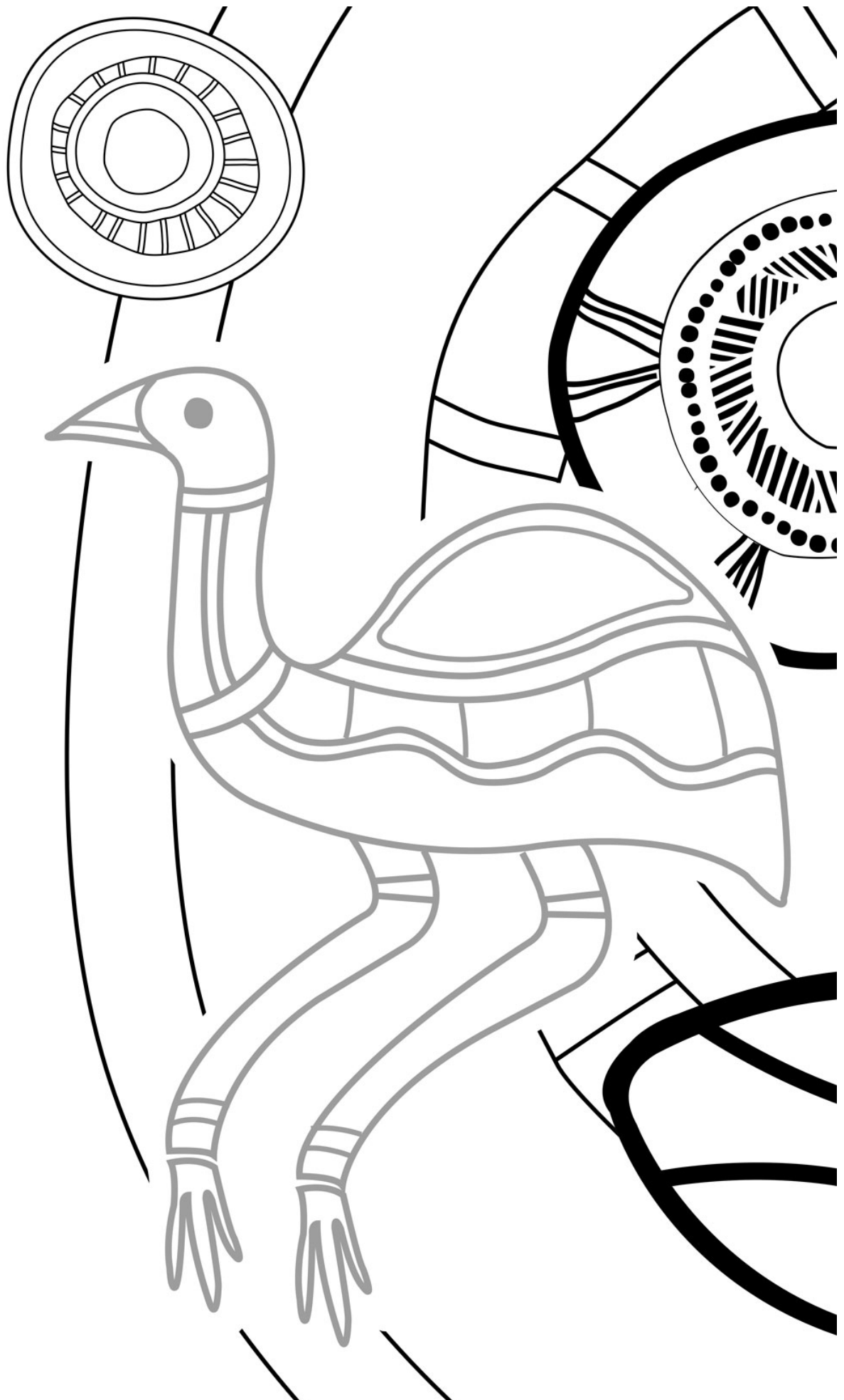
Here's what the artist says about the artwork:

The large circles represent sacred places created on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelands.

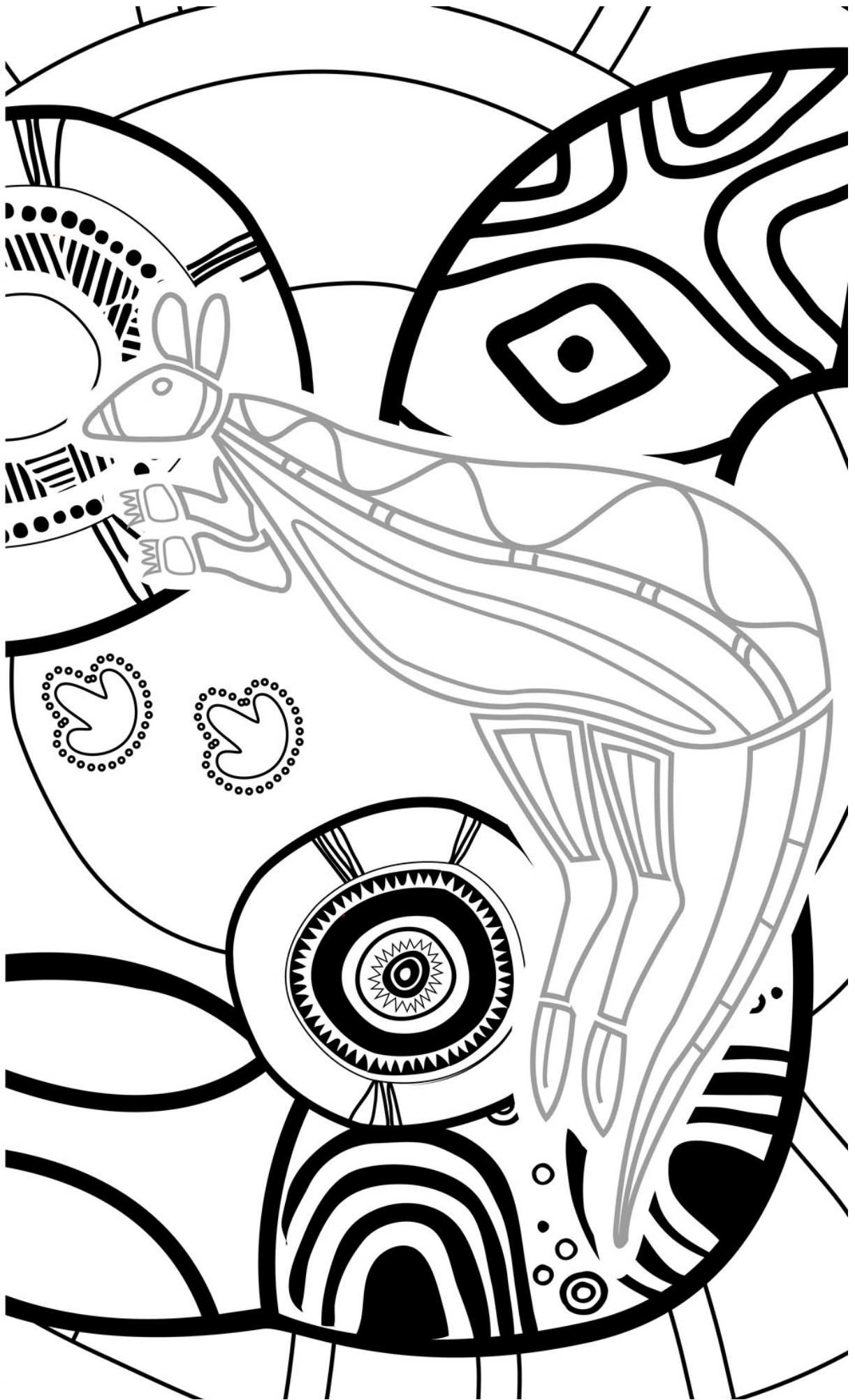
The small circles represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

The serpent in the background represents Country, culture and language. The serpent carries the songlines across Country— spoken in language—telling stories of the people of that land and the deep spiritual significance connecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their ancestors, land and lore.

There are many different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, storylines and languages, and so inside the serpent you can see many different images. But all of them are connected throughout the serpent's body. This shows that although there are many different clans, through songlines and language, they are all connected to Country.



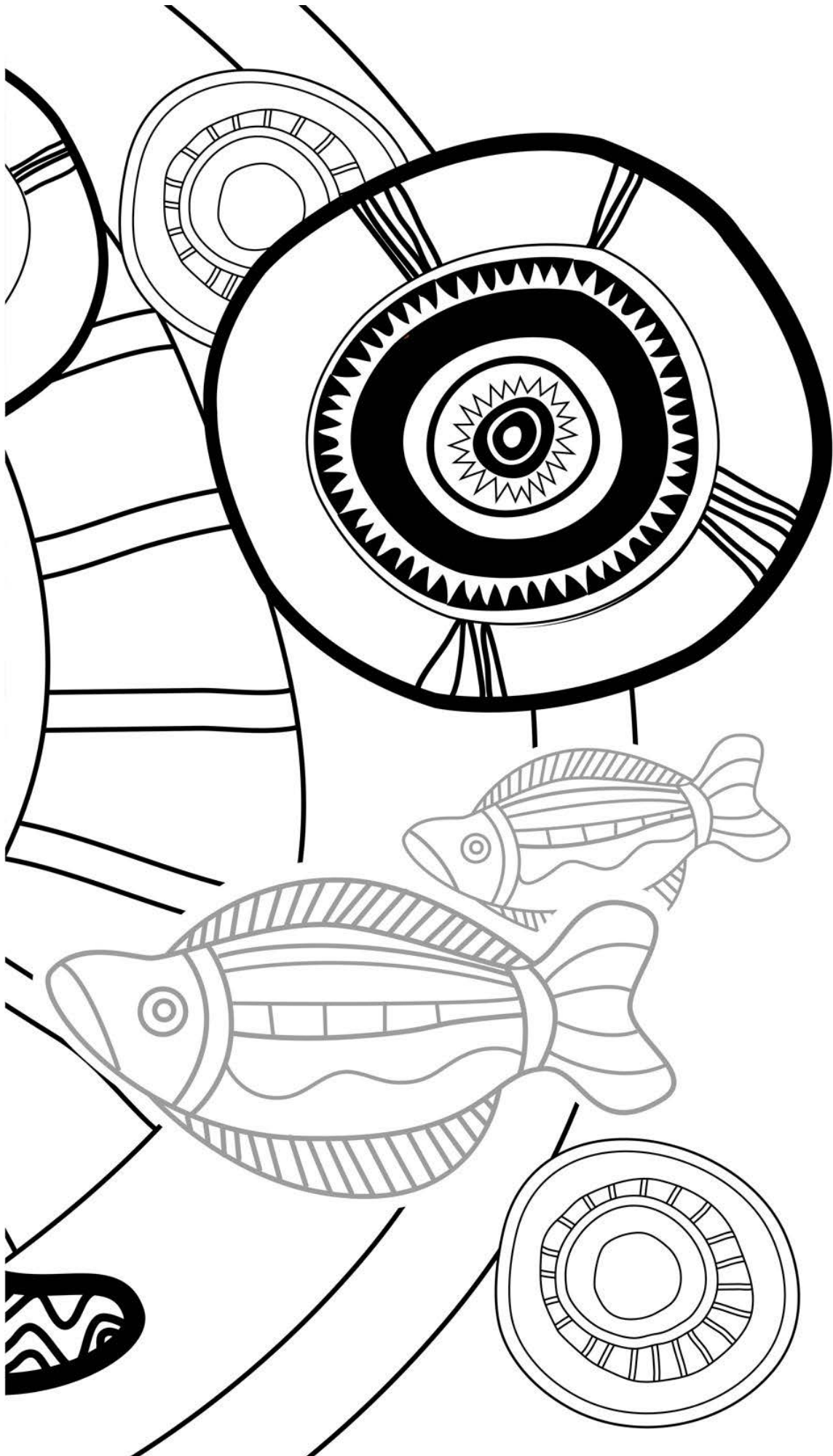
Name: _____ Age: _____





Name: _____ Age: _____





Name: _____ Age: _____



Ingredients for the base

- 1 cup biscuits crushed
- 1 cup macadamias crushed
- 125 g butter melted

Method

1. Mix crushed macadamia nuts, crushed biscuits and butter.
2. Press into base of dish and refrigerate while making filling.

Ingredients for the filling

- 125 g soft butter
- 250 g cream cheese softened
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 tsp gelatine powder
- 60 mls hot water
- 2 tbs ground [lemon myrtle](#)

Method

3. Place softened butter, softened cream cheese, caster sugar, vanilla essence and ground lemon myrtle into a large bowl and cream with an electric mixer.
4. Dissolve gelatine in about 60 mL of hot water and when cool gradually add to the mixture.
5. Beat until light and fluffy.
6. Pour over the biscuit base and place in the fridge overnight.



Do you know other people
who would like to have this
Activity Pack?

Go to our website (www.datsip.qld.gov.au/naidoc) where you can find this downloadable Activity Pack as well as NAIDOC posters and information about NAIDOC events happening near you.

