

NAME:

Indigenous Australia – Identity

1. What do you think the design/colours of the Aboriginal flag represent?

2. What do you think the design/colours of the Torres Strait Islander flag represent?

Read the 'Flags' (page 30) section of the fact book to check if your assumptions were correct.

Draw and label each element of the two flags in the space below or in your book.

3. Why do you think these flags are important to the identity of Indigenous Australian peoples?

4. Why are these flags important to the identity of Australia as a nation?



Teacher Guide – Indigenous Australia – Identity

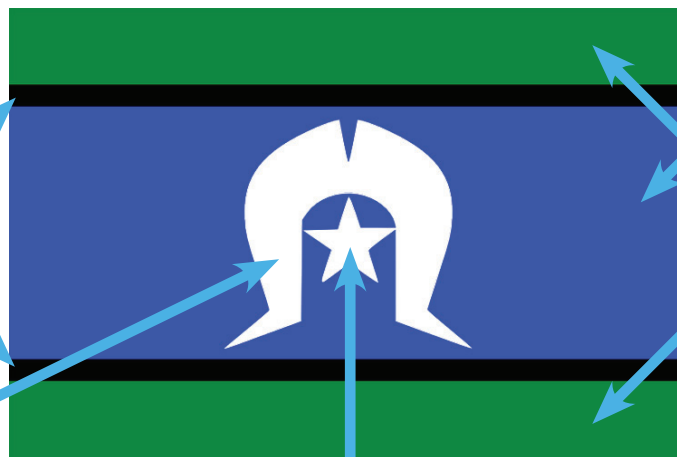
Draw and label each element of the two flags in the space below or in your book.



Represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Represents the sun, the giver of life and protector.

Represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relation to land.



Represents the Torres Strait Islander people.

Represents the Dhari, a traditional headdress.

Represents the Torres Strait Island waters.

Represents the mainlands of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Five pointed star represents the five major island groups of the Torres Strait.

3. Why do you think these flags are important to the identity of Indigenous Australian peoples?

The Aboriginal flag was designed to be a rallying symbol for the Aboriginal people and a symbol of their race and identity. It is also important as a symbol of unity for the Aboriginal people. It contains universal symbolism that almost all Aboriginal communities will find some connection with. The same can be said of the Torres Strait flag, as it unifies the five major islands of the Torres Strait and contains imagery (the Dhari) that can be recognised by everyone.

4. Why are these flags important to the identity of Australia as a nation?

These flags are important to the identity of Australia as a nation as they represent the first people to inhabit this country. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the traditional owners of the Australian land, and therefore it is significant that these flags are now recognised as official flags of Australia. Displaying these flags allows more Australians to gain an appreciation and understanding of Indigenous cultures.

Teacher Guide – Indigenous Australia – Identity

Read the ‘Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country’ (page 31) section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

1. What is the difference between a Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country?

Today, a Welcome to Country occurs at the beginning of formal events and can include things such as singing, dancing, smoking ceremonies or speeches. A Welcome to Country must be performed by Traditional Owners or Indigenous Australian peoples who have been given permission by the Traditional Owners. An Acknowledgement of Country is generally given at the beginning of a formal event or before a speech or meeting. Unlike a Welcome to Country, an Acknowledgement can be given by anyone, not just Indigenous Australian peoples.

2. Why are these traditions important both to Indigenous Australian identity and the identity of Australia as a nation?

A Welcome to Country is important to Indigenous Australian identity as it has been part of their culture for thousands of years. Before European colonisation, Indigenous Nations had clear boundaries identifying their Country. If someone from another Nation wanted to enter, they would seek permission and then a Welcome to Country ceremony would be held. Therefore, continuing these traditions today is important as it allows Indigenous Australian communities to maintain links to their cultural heritage. An Acknowledgement of Country is important for both Indigenous Australian identity and the identity of Australia as a nation, as it is an opportunity to show respect for the Traditional Owners of the land.