

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

25 June 2021 to
25 April 2022

TORRES STRAIT
**ISLAND
FUTURES**

**WHAT LIES AHEAD
FOR ZENADTH KES?**

Teacher Resource and Curriculum Links
Design and Technologies (Year 7, 8, 9 and 10)

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



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Original image: Kantesha Takai

Cultural Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitors are advised that this display contains images and accounts of people who have passed away. We also advise that some of the topics discussed could be distressing.

Queensland Museum is committed to helping our audiences understand both past and ongoing experiences of Australian First Nations people and as part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation.



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These teacher resources were developed by Queensland Museum Lifelong Learning and are intended to support educators when planning a class visit to the exhibition, *Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes*. Learning Resources produced by Queensland Museum cannot be reproduced or used for commercial purposes in any form. Material remains the property of Queensland Museum, or other therein acknowledged sources, and normal copyright laws apply.

An Introduction to *Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes*

Torres Strait Islanders' rich and enduring cultures and languages are inextricably linked to the place they call "home". More than just a physical structure, an interconnectedness between people, place and knowledge is their foundation of identity. Now with the threat of rising sea levels, how do Torres Strait Islanders maintain their strong sense of identity and place if home is underwater?

On the 150th anniversary of the Coming of the Light – the introduction of Christianity throughout Torres Strait - *Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes* empowers voices and conversations about Torres Strait Islanders' place and visibility in present-day Australia.

Developed in collaboration with the community, this powerful and vibrant exhibition features more than 200 objects and images interwoven with Islander perspectives and stories. Included are a number of works from well-known artists including cinematographer Murray Lui, visual artists Christopher Bassi and Dylan Mooney, photographer Kantesha Takai, performance maker Margaret Harvey and Jo Ze spArks, and a new commission from world-renowned Erub Arts.

Torres Strait Islanders are one of Australia's First Peoples. From the tip of Cape York, to the borders of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) covers an area of 48,000 square kilometres and over 200 islands. For those who live and have connections to the 18 inhabited Islands and two Northern Peninsula Area communities, this is home.

Torres Strait Islander Cultural Leaders in the late 1980s made a move to reclaim the name of the region by creating the acronym "Zenadth Kes". This acronym describes the winds and geography of the Torres Strait Islands and region. Zenadth Kes stands for:

- ZE – Zey (South)
- NA – Naygay (North)
- D – Dagam (Place/Side)
- TH – Thawathaw (Coastline)
- KES – Passage/Channel/Waterway

The exhibition explores five themes:

- Home
- Ancestors
- Old Ways
- New Ways
- New Challenges



Kemus, Erub - Coming of the Light

Home

In Torres Strait Islander culture, home is more than a physical structure: it is about people, place, purpose, and a connection. It is about that feeling you get when you know you're "home". It evolves and changes, just like people do, reflects who a person is at any given time.

As you enter this first space in the exhibition, you will see a room that looks like any other, however, the importance of the objects is not what they are, but what they represent. As a whole, this room is a vessel, embodying a constant awareness of the past, present and future. It is a relational space where the physical, spiritual, cultural and environmental come together in harmony, showcasing Torres Strait Islanders' unique understanding of the world and the future.



Ancestors

This space invites you to stop and take a moment to reflect on where you have come from, and how you honour those who came before you.

In Torres Strait Islander culture, ancestors are a person's connection to village, clan, totems and their Island of origin. They are the voices in the wind, the energy underneath your feet and the whispers from the sea. Not only do they pave the way; they continue to be present. For Torres Strait Islanders, it is in family names, songs and objects. Ancestors are with you every step. Without them, you lose your way.

Old Ways

Old Ways are at the core of Torres Strait Islander being. It is a lifelong process of learning and is a presence that is embedded within the soul. Handed down orally through the generations, Old Ways inform cultural identity, family and community responsibilities, as well as understanding and maintaining the surrounding environments. The objects in this space embody the Old Ways within the home, the village and the individual.

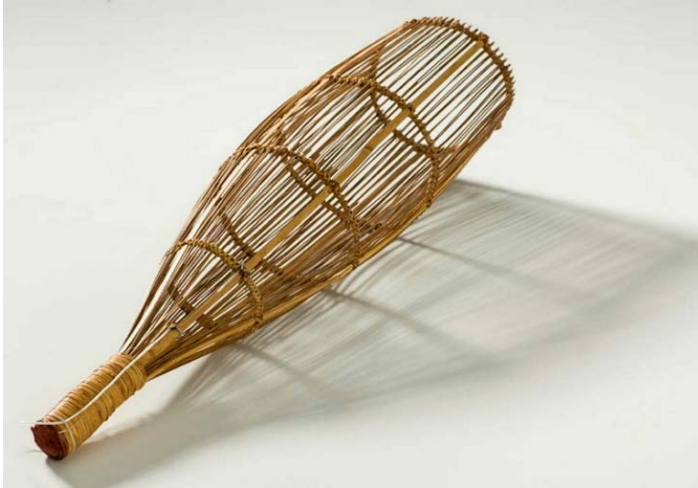


New Ways

Torres Strait Islander culture has not remained static. It has adapted to not just survive but to thrive. This change is manifested in the creation of new songs, dances, materials and artistic expression.

However, new creations still acknowledge the Old Ways and maintain important connections to bloodlines and histories for generations of Torres Strait Islanders to come. Without New Ways, Torres Strait Islanders couldn't look forward with a blueprint of hope for the future.





New Challenges

When you leave home, there's an expectation that you can always return. But what if you couldn't? This space explores the harsh realities faced by Zenadth Kes communities as sea levels rise. Some challenges are natural; some are man-made; yet each impacts the other.

Torres Strait Islanders' cultures and languages are inextricably linked to the place they call "home", which is more

than a physical structure or material objects. It is the interconnectedness between people, place and knowledge. How can the people of the Torres Strait maintain a strong sense of identity and place if their island is underwater?

Meet the Curators



Rhianna Patrick – Guest Lead Curator

Rhianna Patrick is a media professional with family connections to the Zagareb (Mer) and Wagadagem (Mabuyag) clans of the Torres Strait. She has over 20 years media experience and has worked across radio, television, news and current affairs. After a long career with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Rhianna joined IndigenousX, where she is currently developing audio and podcast offerings with support from the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas. Rhianna has a strong passion for Indigenous controlled media and loves all things audio.

Imelda Miller - Curator, Torres Strait Islander and Pacific Indigenous Studies

Imelda Miller is the Curator, Torres Strait Islander and Pacific Indigenous Studies at the Queensland Museum Network. Imelda works with material culture and archival collections inside and outside of traditional museum environment and spaces to create access to collections for communities of origin. Her collaborative curatorial practice incorporates a combination of cultural practice, community engagement and community-led research and development.



Year 7 - 8 Design and Technologies - Stimulus Questions

These stimulus questions provide a starting point for curriculum-relevant conversations with, and creative projects for, your students:

1. Watch Eric Murray Lui's short film *Mothers' Wongai Story*, and read the exhibition panel, and consider:
 - How can an ordinary object become something sacred? What meanings does Lui attach to the everyday items he has filmed?
 - Are there any ordinary objects in your home or school that are considered "sacred"? Consider its importance or history in relation to individuals, your family, your school community or the cultural group with which you identify.
 - What materials do you associate with being "sacred"? If you were to design an object (wearable or otherwise), how would you convey its sacred nature?
2. Conduct a survey of the woven baskets and fans throughout the exhibition and observe:
 - Which materials are used most often? Are they natural or man-made?
 - What techniques have the artists used to manufacture them?
 - How many works have been made by hand, and how many are machine-produced?
 - Find an example of an object which demonstrates:
 - Choice of material influencing design and function
 - Design and function influencing choice of material
3. Conduct a survey of the wearable objects throughout the exhibition and detail:
 - How many are made from plant materials and how many from animals?
 - What challenges would a craftsperson have in sourcing these materials?
 - Are all of these materials sustainable? Why or why not?
 - What future challenges could Torres Strait Islander craftspeople face in sourcing these materials?
4. Use hand-drawn or digital media to reflect the impressions this exhibition made upon you. You may choose to focus on concepts, stories or facts that captured your imagination. Consider employing:
 - Colour
 - Texture
 - Line
 - Repetition
 - Contrast
5. *Without* reading any text panels, view the fish scoops in the exhibition and describe:
 - What materials you think they are made from and where would they have been sourced?
 - How they were made?
 - How you think they are used?
 - How they have been designed to ensure they maintain their form in the water?
 - How you would use the same materials to design an idea to catch fish?
 - Once you have answers to the above questions, read the panel. Were your educated guesses accurate?

Year 7 - 8 Design and Technologies – Australian Curriculum Links

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
Investigate the ways in which products, services and environments evolve locally, regionally and globally and how competing factors including social, ethical and sustainability considerations are prioritised in the development of technologies and designed solutions for preferred futures (ACTDEK029)
Analyse ways to produce designed solutions through selecting and combining characteristics and properties of materials, systems, components, tools and equipment (ACTDEK034)
PROCESSES AND PRODUCTION SKILLS
Critique needs or opportunities for designing and investigate, analyse and select from a range of materials, components, tools, equipment and processes to develop design ideas (ACTDEP035)
Independently develop criteria for success to evaluate design ideas, processes and solutions and their sustainability (ACTDEP038)

Year 9 – 10 Design and Technologies - Stimulus Questions

These stimulus questions provide a starting point for curriculum-relevant conversations with, and creative projects for, your students:

1. Watch Eric Murray Lui's short film, *Mothers' Wongai Story*, and read the exhibition panel, and consider:
 - How can an ordinary object become something sacred? What meanings does Lui attach to the everyday items he has filmed?
 - Are there any ordinary objects in your home or school that are considered "sacred"? Consider its importance or history in relation to individuals, your family, your school community or the cultural group with which you identify.
 - What materials do you associate with being "sacred"? If you were to design an object (wearable or otherwise), how would you convey its sacred nature?
2. Conduct a survey of the woven baskets and fans throughout the exhibition and observe:
 - Which materials are used most often? Are they natural or man-made?
 - What techniques have the artists used to manufacture them?
 - How many works have been made by hand, and how many are machine-produced?
 - Find an example of an object which demonstrates:
 - Choice of material influencing design and function
 - Design/function influencing choice of material
3. Conduct a survey of the wearable objects throughout the exhibition and observe:
 - How many are made from plant materials, and how many from animals?
 - What challenges would a craftsperson have in sourcing these materials?
 - Are all of these materials sustainable? Why or why not?
 - What future challenges could Torres Strait Islander craftspeople face in sourcing these materials?
4. Use hand-drawn or digital media to reflect the impressions this exhibition made upon you. You may choose to focus on concepts, stories or facts that captured your imagination. Consider employing:
 - Colour
 - Texture
 - Line
 - Repetition
 - Contrast
5. *Without* reading any text panels, view the fish scoops in the exhibition.
 - What materials do you think they are made from, and where would they have been sourced?
 - How were they made?
 - How do you think they are used?
 - How have they been designed to ensure they maintain their form in the water?
 - With the same materials and technologies available, what design would you come up with to catch fish?
 - Once you have come to some conclusions, read the panel. Were your educated guesses accurate?

Year 9 - 10 Design and Technologies – Australian Curriculum Links

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
Critically analyse factors, including social, ethical and sustainability considerations, that impact on designed solutions for global preferred futures and the complex design and production processes involved (ACTDEK040)
Explain how products, services and environments evolve with consideration of preferred futures and the impact of emerging technologies on design decisions (ACTDEK041)
Investigate and make judgments on how the characteristics and properties of materials, systems, components, tools and equipment can be combined to create designed solutions (ACTDEK046)
PROCESSES AND PRODUCTION SKILLS
Critique needs or opportunities to develop design briefs and investigate and select and increasingly sophisticated range of materials, systems, components, tools and equipment to develop design ideas (ACTDEP048)
Develop, modify and communicate design ideas by applying design thinking, creativity, innovation and enterprise skills of increasing sophistication (ACTDEP049)
Evaluate design ideas, processes and solutions against comprehensive criteria for success recognising the need for sustainability (ACTDEP051)