



ISLANDS

HIDDEN
HISTORIES
FROM
QUEENSLAND
ISLANDS

Learning notes

Lower secondary

Islands, an exhibition and digital collection brought to life in 2018 by State Library of Queensland, tells the hidden stories of five Islands off the coast of Queensland. Far from being places of peace and tranquility, after the arrival of Europeans many islands became the scene of treachery and deception, violence and vengeance, life and death, and the struggle for survival and resources. There are, however, stories of triumph juxtaposed against those tragic tales, where love, family and home win out in the end and against the odds.

The art of the **Torres Strait** is celebrated around the world, telling ancient and contemporary stories together as evidenced in the work of Erub Arts and brought to life in *Islands, Erub*; a digital story produced by State Library of Queensland (2018).

The artworks associated with the tourism industry of **Lindeman Island** use different techniques but are equally intriguing. Glamorous images of a tropical paradise as well as exotic images of coconut palms and Indigenous people dressed in grass skirts and leis performing the hula can be found in the islands promotional material reflecting attitudes of the time.

Using Explorations of Culture and Place in your classroom:

This activity has been designed specifically for students in lower secondary Visual Arts to complete individually. Begin by watching *Islands, Erub: a digital story* (State Library, 2018). Download and print a copy of the Explorations of Culture and Place for each student (ideally [A3 landscape](#)). Students engage with the visuals and prompted questions on Page 1 and 2 prior to planning their own artwork in response to the topics on Page 3 in a **guided research folio**.

Australian Curriculum

Students will engage with elements of both the HASS and Visual Art curriculum, most specifically:

Year 7 HASS

Analysing Interpret and analyse data and information displayed in a range of formats to identify and propose explanations for distributions, patterns, trends and relationships ([ACHASS1158](#))

Year 8 Civics and Citizenship

Citizenship, diversity and identity Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, and what it means to be Australian ([ACHCK066](#))

Year 7/8 Visual Art

Experiment with visual arts conventions and techniques, including exploration of techniques

used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent a theme, concept or idea in their artwork ([ACAVAM118](#))

Analyse how artists use visual conventions in artworks ([ACAVAR123](#))

Identify and connect specific features and purposes of visual artworks from contemporary and past times to explore viewpoints and enrich their art-making, starting with Australian artworks including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ([ACAVAR124](#))

and the **General Capabilities** of:

- Intercultural understanding
- Ethical understanding
- Critical and creative thinking

Extend this resource in your classroom by:

- Using the planning on Page 3 as an art making task, specifically a unit on lino cutting (Visual Art)
- Creating a modern-day tourism brochure for Lindeman Island that focuses on equity and promotes reconciliation (Visual Art, Design and Technology)

Further reading and resources:

- *Islands: hidden histories from Queensland islands* (exhibition website 2018, State Library of Queensland)
- *One Search*, State Library's digital library catalogue has extended resources relating to both *Erub* and *Lindeman Island*
- *Islands Erub, a digital story* (State Library, 2018)

References:

- *Coming of the Light*, 2006
Frank Mye
ed. 2/20
John Oxley Library, State Library
Accession 29469
- *Lindeman Is. Great Barrier Reef*, ca. 1959
Frank Rowland
John Oxley Library, State Library
HPT TOU 052
Chromolithograph on paper
- *Lindeman Island cruise and tariff brochure*, ca. 1962
Lindeman Aerial Services Ltd (Nicolson family)
John Oxley Library, State Library
Ephemera collection