



Sandhills Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Arts Week in Australia!

This week your child will be exploring the exciting world of Australia and its many varied animals, habitats and cultural traditions.

Throughout this pack I have used the term Indigenous Australian, there are however some other resources included which use the term aboriginal people, where possible I have tried to change this.

To put some of these activities in a historical context, it's been 250 years since Captain Cook arrived in Botany Bay. The journey of Captain Cook and his discovery of Eastern Australia, is one which might make you think. (He was not the first European to discover Australia.) When he arrived in Australia, it caused the country to change hugely. The Indigenous Australians lost much of the land and a shocking 90% of Indigenous Australians lost their lives as a result of illness, brought over by European settlers or due to conflict. The British Empire claimed Australia as its own in 1770 and controversially begun bringing convicts in 1788. I have touched on this in the music section of the week. It's important to remember that some of the people considered convicts were in fact people who were starving themselves and who had stolen livestock or other food, to feed their families; they were in essence, trying to keep themselves alive.

I have tried to include PowerPoints and additional information, so that children have a background of information. There are lots of links to video clips to either educate or instruct on various techniques. I have also made some videos myself, with a few appearances from Ziggy the cat!!

If something is highlighted red, an adult will need to supervise, as this usually means it involves a something sharp or having to put something up high! I have tried to rely on resources and equipment that I hope you will have at home, such as paper, paint and old magazine or newspapers. I will however, leave some print outs of the leaf stencils in the entrance hall if this helps with the making of the jungle garlands!

I hope you have fun exploring the enormously varied Australia and I can't wait to see the videos and photographs of what you have made!

Enjoy this opportunity to be creative, to quote Pablo Picasso: "Every child is an artist, the problem is staying an artist when you grow up." Remember, there is no such things as the right way or wrong way in art!

Best wishes, stay safe and have fun with it,

Mrs Hunter-Lacey

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