
Indigenous Rap Activities B1



A. Get ready

1. **“Indigenous”**: what does this term evoke for you?

2. **In which English-speaking countries can you find indigenous people? Name a few countries, and the names of the native people who live there.**



B. Read the whole article and find out about:

1. **Historical facts about Australia**

a. When is Australia Day? _____

b. Who are the Australians of the Year?

c. Where is Arnhem Land? _____

d. Percentage of Indigenous people in that territory: _____

e. Percentage of Indigenous people in the whole country: _____

f. What happened in 1788? _____

g. Who are the people referred to as the “Stolen Generation”?

2. **Identity of the Rapper**

a. First name: _____

b. Surname: _____

c. Nickname : _____

d. Age: _____

e. Part of the country he is from: _____

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f. Three of his special skills: _____

g. Award he was given in 2019: _____

h. How many languages does he speak? _____

i. Languages he uses to sing: _____

j. Big success in 2017: _____

k. Recognition from international rappers: _____

l. His five main goals:

3. Indigenous people and Danzal's approach

Say whether these sentences are true or false. Quote the text to justify your answers.

a. Indigenous youth need to feel more self-confident about their future. T F

b. Danzal's mother tongue was English T F

c. He found it difficult to rap in his Indigenous language. T F

d. He started dancing very early. T F

e. Most native languages have disappeared today. T F

f. Children were allowed to speak all languages in their boarding-schools. T F

g. Danzal wants to raise awareness about the Indigenous languages are still spoken in Australia today. T F

h. He wants Balanda, a friend of his, to learn his native language. T F

i. He reaches out to all the young people of Australia, Indigenous and non-Indigenous. T F

j. He believes love and respect will contribute to uniting people towards a better understanding of each other's culture. T F

C. Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kY1mLFY5_Q

1. What do you notice about the language?

2. Abbreviations:

These terms are common in rap. Can you guess what they mean? Choose an option for each:

aka: a. as kind as b. also known as c. a keen act

MC: a. Master of Ceremonies b. Main Contestant c. Melodic Crowd

3.a. Can you find a synonym for "unite"? _____

b. And a synonym for "brain"? _____

4.a. Find two similar words Danzal associates with "education": _____

b. And two words associated with "performing": _____

5. a. Quote two adjectives Danzal uses about indigenous language:

b. Fill in the blanks: "It's _____ we are and _____ we're from. Australia."

6. Sum up Danzal's message and commitment.

D. DID YOU KNOW? Learning a new language can be a lot of fun!

The next two activities were created from: *A Beginner's Guide to Australian Aboriginal Words* (2015) by Reginald Lewis.



1. You already speak some Aboriginal words! Find the words by reading their definition:

- a. The name of a typically Australian animal, famous for its long tail and the pocket the mothers have for babies: _____
- b. A hunting weapon originally which is a curved piece of wood that can be thrown so that it will return to the thrower: _____
- c. A musical instrument in the form of a long hollow branch: _____
- d. A marsupial that feeds on eucalyptus leaves: _____
- e. A wild half-domesticated dog: _____



2. Learn about "Pidgin English"

It is a simplified contact language created from the need for several language groups to communicate. Match these pidgin English words with the other traditional English words

Pidgin English

1. allabout
2. shake-a-leg-song
3. BC
4. cousin brother
5. birrick
6. bullyman
7. kangaroo marry
8. learnem
9. shame day
10. youtwofella
11. jeng-waller
12. language name

Traditional English

- a. policeman
- b. live together as a couple
- c. teacher
- d. January 26th, the day of British invasion
- e. everywhere
- f. Aboriginal name
- g. talkative, a chatterbox
- h. ghost (from English 'spirit')
- i. a relative of the same generation
- j. time before British invasion
- k. both of you
- l. song to dance to



E. In groups of 4 prepare 8 questions to learn more about Aboriginal history. Ask those questions to your teacher.



Your Turn!

Imagine you, as an ambassador of Aboriginal culture, and a supporter of Danzal Baker, would like to convince a group of young Australian pupils to learn some Aboriginal language. Write a 200-word speech using all you know about their history and also the following quotes.

A. Read the back cover of the book by R. Lewis.

One very successful way to meet and greet someone from another tribe is to have at least a little of their language. Just a few words can often demonstrate respect and send apprehension and fear to flight with a smile.

Barriers are broken asunder¹ and tumble² to the ground. Hands are clasped³. The bad pronunciation is – in laughter – corrected. And the black man and the white man, without giving utterance⁴ to the thought, know they are brothers. (...)

None of us can change the past, but we can model a brighter future with our fellow Australians. Go ye forth, I say, and speak in many tongues.

A Beginner's Guide to Australian Aboriginal Words, Reginald Lewis 2015

Vocabulary: 1. into pieces 2. fall suddenly 3. to grasp tightly 4. voicing, saying.

B. Nelson Mandela once said: ‘If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.’