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## Exploration: Natives of Terra Australis

### In this activity sheet students will:

- see some early European sketches of Australian fauna and indigenous people
- learn about the voyages of two European naturalists to visit early colonial Australia, François Peron and John Gould
- gain a sense of the crews' adventures, hardships and interactions with indigenous people
- develop an awareness of indigenous perspective and sense of identity
- identify Australian mammals and features of marsupials.

### Answers to question time

1. A naturalist studies the natural world, including flora and fauna.
2. Many indigenous Australians are very sensitive about reproduced images of them, especially after they have died.
3. Discussion starters: strangers who look very different, don't speak the same language, showing respect towards another culture's customs.
4. Student's personal answer.
5. How they live; customs, religion, maps, what's good to eat, where fresh drinking water can be found.
6. Student's personal answer.
7. Music is very different from European cultures and Aboriginal culture; strange words; they probably danced about and tried to make it amusing.

### Answers to Activity 1 – Get interactive!

1. Student answers.
2. Most Australian mammals are marsupials, fascinatingly unique to a European.
3. Marsupials mothers give birth and suckle their young like all mammals, but after the young are born they spend a long period of time in their mother's pouch.
4. One theory is that Australia is an island, so its animals have evolved in an isolated environment.
5. Students might offer strategies on how not to be seen by the animal they are sketching; or videoing the animal first. In the past some artists have painted dead, stuffed animals too.

### Additional activities

#### Nature artist

Take the students outside at school, to a local park, or on an excursion to the zoo, so that they can sketch and label some local birds or insects. Before students begin ask the following questions:

- How will you sketch something that is always walking or flying?
- What strategies will you use to solve this problem?
- What tools will you use to sketch?
- Will you sketch first and add colours later, or draw in colour?

Once students have finished, ask whether they know the bird/insect's name? If they don't know its name, they can create a new name for it. Ask who/what they will name it after and why.

### Game: What animal am I?

- One student goes to the front of the class and faces the class away from the board.
- The name of an animal is written on the board.
- The student at the front of the class can now ask 20 questions that have yes/no answers. For example, 'Does this animal live in the water?'
- The other students can only say 'Yes!' or 'No!' No other clues may be given.
- When the student has guessed the animal, the game can be repeated with other students.
- The winning student has the least number of guesses.

### Australian Animal Project

- Students can choose an Australian animal to do a research project on.
- They can use some of the links below to find out more about Australian animals. Here are some possible topic headings for the project:
  - What does it eat?
  - Where does it live?
  - How is it born?
  - How do parents look after babies?
  - Other interesting facts.
  - Why this is my favourite marsupial!

Below are some websites to help you create classroom activities:

<http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/fauna>

<http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/caughtandcoloured/>

<http://www.rochedalss.eq.edu.au/rdale/animal.htm>

### Sources consulted

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Sauer, Gordon C, 1982, *John Gould, the Bird man: A Chronology and Bibliography*, Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne.

Wallace, Colin, 1984, *The Lost Australia of François Peron*, Nottingham Court Press, London.

*François Peron (1775-1810) : The Navigators*, ABC Online, 2007.

[http://www.abc.net.au/navigators/naturalists/peron\\_print.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/navigators/naturalists/peron_print.htm)

*John Gould Inc.*, Exhibition notes, Australian Museum, 2004.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/exhibitions/gould/>

