**Video title:** Aboriginal Australians before Contact

Support this video lesson with this carefully selected resource from our colleagues at Blake Education. This downloadable PDF consolidates and extends the Australian curriculum content detailed below and covered in the video.

**Year 4**

ACHASSK083 The diversity of Australia’s first peoples and the long and continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country/Place (land, sea, waterways and skies)

The attached resources are from Australian History Centres: Middle Primary. Answers are below.

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**Activity Card 25**

**Evaluating and Reflecting**

Answers will vary. Example answers include: Technology for testing bones has become more advanced. We now have computers and new applications to test data. Parts of the bones that could not be tested before could be tested now to find out more information.

All other answers will vary.

**Worksheet 42**

1.

2. Answers will vary.
Today, a geologist named Jim Bowler made the second-most amazing discovery of his life. Six years ago, he first made the news when he found a set of burnt bones near Lake Mungo in New South Wales. These bones were called Mungo Lady after where they were found. Mungo Lady was thought to be the oldest proof of humans living in Australia and dated back 20,000–26,000 years. Jim went back to Lake Mungo and found a skull only 450 metres from where he found the first bones. After careful excavation, he found the whole skeleton, which is now known as Mungo Man. The most exciting thing about this discovery is that the bones of Mungo Man seem to be even older than those of Mungo Lady. Scientists are still testing the bones, but many believe they are over 40,000 years old. This proves that Aboriginal peoples have lived in Australia much longer than was first thought.

Mungo Lady now has her Mungo Man!
Inquiry question: What was life like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?

**RESEARCHING**

Lake Mungo is located in south-western New South Wales. It is a dry lake in the middle of Mungo National Park. Can you find Lake Mungo on a map of Australia? Mark where it is located on the map on the worksheet. Look at the picture of Lake Mungo on the source card. Create a mind map of words that describe what the environment of Lake Mungo is like.

(ACHASSI074, ACHASSI075)

**QUESTIONING**

Imagine you are an archaeologist who has discovered an important ancient artefact — for example, a fossil, a statue, a bowl or a vase. Use the worksheet to write down five key questions you would need to ask in order to figure out what the artefact is.

(ACHASSI073)

**ANALYSING**

Archaeologists such as Jim Bowler often dig up the skeletons of people who lived a long time ago. Some Aboriginal peoples could become upset if the bones of their ancestors who have died are dug up. They believe that the bones should be allowed to rest where they are. Use the worksheet to answer the questions. Decide if you agree or disagree with each point of view and write down your reasons why.

(ACHASSI077)

**EVALUATING AND REFLECTING**

When the bones of Mungo Man were first discovered in 1974, scientists believed that the bones of Mungo Lady were 20,000–26,000 years old. They now believe that the remains of both Mungo Man and Mungo Lady are around 40,000 years old. What things do you think have changed since 1974 that made it possible for scientists to figure out how old the bones are?

(ACHASSI079)

**COMMUNICATING**

Imagine a newspaper is interviewing you about the discovery you made in the Questioning activity. Get a friend or classmate to play the interviewer. Answer the questions you wrote on the worksheet, and talk about how you found it and how it made you feel. Swap places and you play the interviewer.

(ACHASSI082)
1. Can you find Lake Mungo on a map of Australia? Mark where it is located on the map below.

![Map of Australia](image)

2. Look at the picture of Lake Mungo on the source card. Create a mind map of words that describe what the environment of Lake Mungo is like.

![Mind Map](image)
1. Imagine you are an archaeologist who has discovered an important ancient artefact — for example, a fossil, a statue, a bowl or a vase. Write down five key questions you would need to ask in order to figure out what the artefact is.

i) ——————————————————————————————————————

ii) —————————————————————————————————————

iii) —————————————————————————————————————

iv) —————————————————————————————————————

v) —————————————————————————————————————

2. Read each point of view below. Decide if you agree (Yes) or disagree (No). Give a reason why you think this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of View</th>
<th>Tick YES or NO</th>
<th>Give a reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would be upset if the bones of someone in my family who lived long ago were dug up.</td>
<td>YES ☐ NO ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think digging up skeletons helps us to understand more about the past.</td>
<td>YES ☐ NO ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it's okay to dig up the bones of people who died thousands of years ago.</td>
<td>YES ☐ NO ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>