

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Cross-curriculum priority

The cross-curriculum priorities, together with learning area content and the general capabilities, form the Australian Curriculum's three-dimensional curriculum design. Through embedding the cross-curriculum priorities in Prep to Year 10, schools can provide opportunities to enrich the content of the learning areas, allowing students to engage with and better understand their world.

Aspects of the cross-curriculum priority

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority has three aspects:

- Country/Place
- Culture
- People.

These aspects provide a scaffold for developing the knowledge, understanding and skills for the priority and promoting connections between the priority and the learning area content. Aspects are embedded in a learning area (e.g. achievement standards and content descriptions) according to the relevance of curriculum content to the organising ideas.

The organising ideas of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Organising ideas of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority Version 9.0, ACARA

Version 9.0 organising ideas
Country/Place
First Nations communities of Australia maintain a deep connection to, and responsibility for, Country/Place and have holistic values and belief systems that are connected to the land, sea, sky and waterways. (A_TSICP1)
The occupation and colonisation of Australia by the British, under the now overturned doctrine of terra nullius, were experienced by First Nations Australians as an invasion that denied their occupation of, and connection to, Country/Place. (A_TSICP2)
The First Peoples of Australia are the traditional owners of Country/Place, protected in Australian Law by the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> which recognises pre-existing sovereignty, continuing systems of law and customs, and connection to Country/Place. This recognised legal right provides for economic sustainability and a voice into the development and management of Country/Place. (A_TSICP3)
Culture
First Nations Australian societies are diverse and have distinct cultural expressions such as language, customs and beliefs. As First Nations Peoples of Australia they have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural expressions, while also maintaining the right to control, protect and develop culture as Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property. (A_TSIC1)
First Nations Australians' ways of life reflect unique ways of being, knowing, thinking and doing. (A_TSIC2)
The First Peoples of Australia (Aboriginal Peoples) belong to the world's oldest continuous cultures. First Nations Australians demonstrate resilience in the maintenance, practice and revitalisation of culture despite the many historic and enduring impacts of colonisation, and continue to celebrate and share the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures. (A_TSIC3)
People
Australia has 2 distinct First Nations Peoples; each encompasses a diversity of nations across Australia. Aboriginal Peoples are the first peoples of Australia and have occupied the Australian continent for more than 60,000 years. Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the First Nations Peoples of the Torres Strait and have occupied the region for over 4,000 years. (A_TSIP1)
First Nations Australians have sophisticated political, economic and social organisation systems, which include family and kinship structures, laws, traditions, customs, land tenure systems and protocols for strong governance and authority. (A_TSIP2)
The significant and ongoing contributions of First Nations Australians and their histories and cultures are acknowledged locally, nationally and globally. (A_TSIP3)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in the Australian Curriculum

Content specifically related to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority appears in learning area achievement standards and content descriptions, as outlined in Table 2. For learning areas/subjects where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority is not explicitly addressed, there may still be opportunities for the priority to be authentically incorporated.

Table 2: Mapping of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in the Australian Curriculum achievement standards (AS) and content descriptions (CD)

	English	Health and Physical Education	Humanities and Social Sciences					Languages					Mathematics	Science	Technologies		The Arts				
			HASS P-6	Civics and Citizenship	Economics and Business	Geography	History	Chinese	French	Italian	Japanese	Design and Technologies			Digital Technologies	Dance	Drama	Media Arts	Music	Visual Arts	
Prep	CD		CD														CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 1	CD		CD														CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 2	CD		CD														CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 3	CD		CD														CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 4	CD		CD														CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 5	CD		CD										AS CD				CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 6	CD		CD										AS CD				CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 7	CD			CD		CD	AS CD							AS CD			AS CD	AS CD	AS CD	AS CD	AS CD
Year 8	CD			CD	CD	CD								AS CD			AS CD	AS CD	AS CD	AS CD	AS CD
Year 9	CD						CD							AS CD			CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
Year 10	CD			CD		CD	CD							AS CD			CD	CD	CD	CD	CD

More information

This factsheet is part of a suite of resources to support teachers to embed the Australian Curriculum's cross-curriculum priorities. The suite is available from the QCAA website at <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/version-9/cross-curriculum-priorities> and also includes:

- *Embedding the cross-curriculum priorities: Advice for schools* (PDF)
- *Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia: Cross-curriculum priority* (PDF)
- *Sustainability: Cross-curriculum priority* (PDF).

See also Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) 2022, *Cross-Curriculum Priorities: Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia Version 9.0 — about the cross-curriculum priority*, <https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/downloads/cross-curriculum-priorities#accordion-00dfddc453-item-c84c8658c0>.



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