



Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clothing and Artifacts

Boomerang

Woomera

Loin cloth

Coolamon

Spear

Dilly Bag

There are a large variety of spears made by the Indigenous peoples of Australia, and they were made for a variety of purposes and from different materials. When making a spear, Aboriginal men would often use fire to help straighten or harden the wood.

- Spears made for killing large animals such as kangaroos need to be made out of strong hardwood to be able to penetrate through the skin of a large fast-moving animal. Often the spear point was made from stone that was shaped into a point and attached to the spear with resin and string or sinew. If stone wasn't available, the point could be hardened using a fire.
- Fishing spears were made from lighter materials and often had several barbed points. In northern Australia, bamboo could be used to make a number of points, otherwise the extra points had to be attached. Sometimes the branches wouldn't be straight but could be straightened by holding them over a fire.
- Spears for hunting birds were made out of light wood and were used so that they would hit the birds when they were in flight, damaging their wings and necks, rather than spearing them. Boomerangs were also used, as well as making the birds fly into nets.
- Some spears were made exclusively for fighting. Fighting spears were usually made from hard woods and had barbs on them so that they could not be

Coolamon is an anglicised NSW Aboriginal word used to describe an Australian Aboriginal carrying vessel.

It is a multi-purpose shallow vessel, or dish with curved sides, ranging in length from 30–70 cm, and similar in shape to a canoe.

Sometimes used to carry babies, food and water.

A boomerang is a thrown tool, typically constructed as a flat airfoil, that is designed to spin about an axis perpendicular to the direction of its flight.

A returning boomerang is designed to return to the thrower. It is well known as a weapon and tool used by some Aboriginal Australian peoples for hunting.

Boomerangs were traditionally made of wood from trees.



A loincloth is a one-piece garment, sometimes kept in place by a belt. It covers the genitals and, at least partially, the buttocks.

A dillybag or dilly bag is a traditional Australian Aboriginal bag generally woven from plant fibres. Dillybags are mainly designed and used by women to gather and transport food, and are most commonly found in the northern parts of Australia

Woomera is a name commonly used instead of spear thrower although it is a name used only by some language groups in parts of New South Wales. The town of Woomera in South Australia was first built in 1947 when Australia was involved with the British in developing rockets and missiles.

Spear throwers were often used with spears to increase the distance they could be thrown. The design of spear throwers depends on the people who made them. They are made out of hard wood and are usually 45 to 150 cm long. They have a peg at one end where the spear fits in and the thrower holds it by the other end to throw the spear.

Using a spear thrower, an expert thrower can get two to three times the distance he could throw without using one. Spear throwers work according to the principle of levers, which are one kind of simple machine. There are three types of levers and a spear thrower is an example of the second type of lever. The peg is the fulcrum, the spear is the load and the effort is at the top of the spear thrower, provided by the thrower.

Some spear throwers could also be used to produce fire, by rubbing the edge against another softer piece of wood while keeping some kindling nearby.

Aboriginal Models

