

Aboriginal tools and skills

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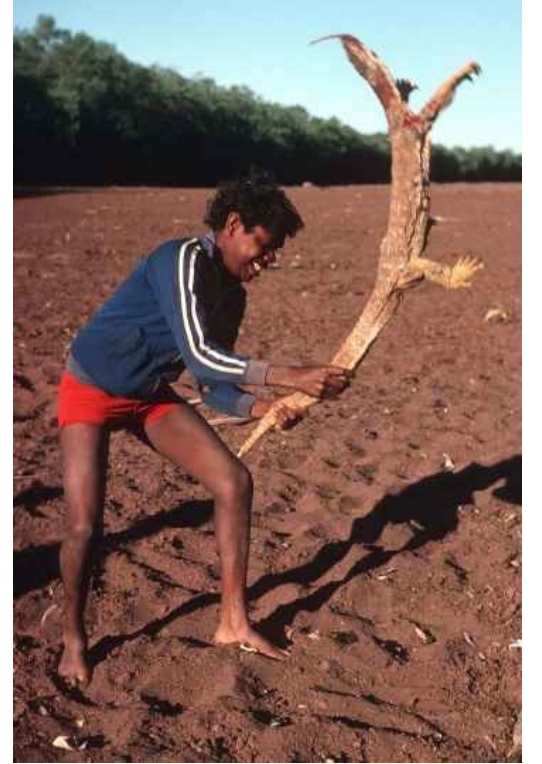
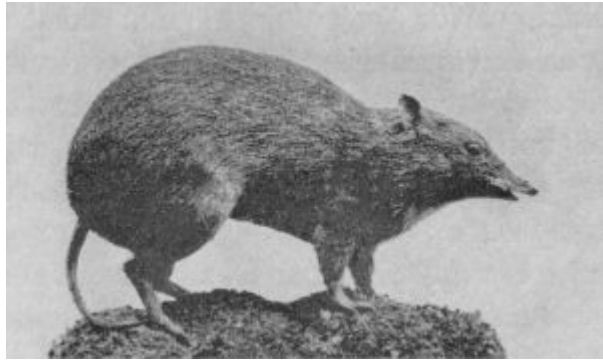
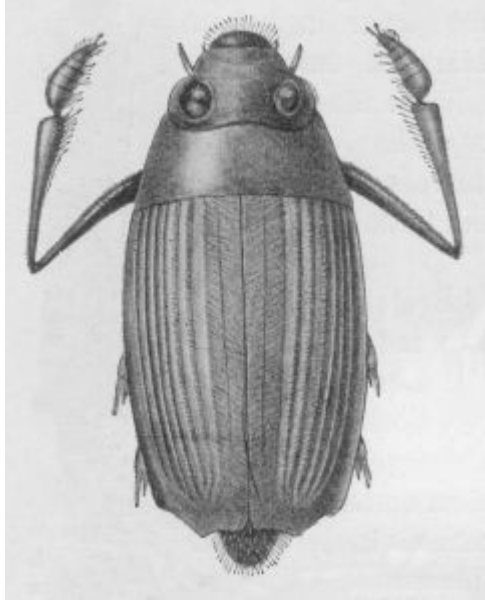
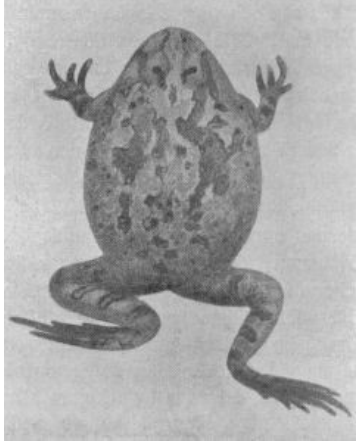


Hunter-gatherer



- Tribes along the coast and rivers expert fishermen, inlanders (bush, desert) hunting/fire hunting, skilled in seeking out water
- Fire hunting - burning the undergrowth to encourage the growth of plants favoured by the game they hunted
- Men hunt large animals (kangaroos, emus), flying animals (bats, birds)
women the smaller ones (snakes, goannas, insects, see next. page),
also collect food





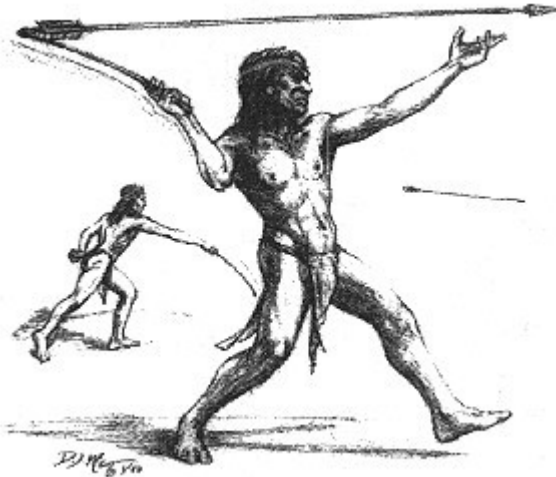
Tools and technology implements

- Aboriginal people the first with stone technology
- - also the first with ground edges on cutting tools and grinding seeds
- Tools and implements – geographical locations – materials: coastal tribes use fishbone tips, desert tribes use stone
- The most common weapons – spears, clubs and boomerangs
- The tips tied on with animal sinews or glued on with resin
- After the English colonization adopted metal, glass and ceramics



Woomera / a spear thrower

- an extension of the thrower's arm
- A woomera and spear were the fastest weapons in the world before the invention of the self-loading rifle (Eric Willmot).
- multipurpose tools - + stone cutting tool / axe-like attachment = hunt, chop firewood, cut down branches to make a shelter or chop up meat; making fire





hunting a crocodile



...an emu



...an ibis



and a dugong.



Spears

- Large animals - strong hardwood
- Fishing spears from lighter materials, often barbed
- Spears for hunting birds of light wood, also boomerangs
- Fighting spears – hard wood, barbed
- Spears and boomerangs used almost exclusively by men



Boomerangs

- Use – hunting and fighting, digging and as a music instrument
- Non/returning boomerangs (non-returning larger, heavier, deadlier)
- [boomerang in action](#)



Tracking



GW Wilson 'Aboriginal tracker', an Aboriginal policeman of the late nineteenth century. *National Library of Australia.*

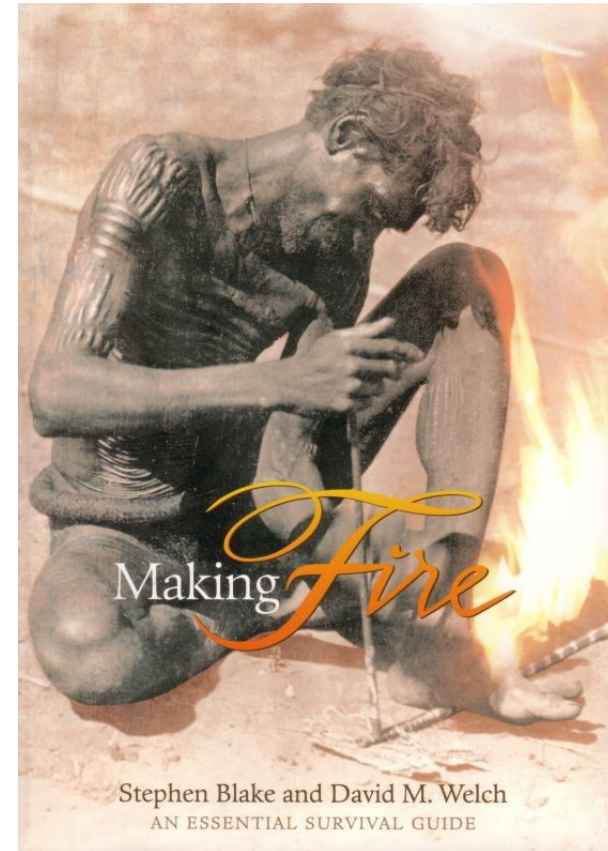
- a knowledge passed down through generations, taught from early age
- primarily men-hunters, but also women-hunters/gatherers
- identifying the tracked – worth following? (if animal is dying, carrying a baby, skilled trackers can tell if a snake is poisonous)
- Aboriginal trackers – ‘exploration guides’, trackers of runaway convicts



Other skills

starting fire with sticks and tinder
Traditional people also use fire to bend
or straighten timber, or to make it
harder.

Fire hunting



Thank you for your attention



Sources:

- <http://www.survivalinternational.org/tribes/aboriginals>
- <http://www.ozoutback.com.au/Australia/hunting/index.html>
- <http://www.aboriginalculture.com.au/toolsandweapons.shtml>
- <http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/austn-indigenous-tools-and-technology>

