

Find an

interesting pattern.

What shapes do you see?

Where might you see this pattern in your everyday life or on Country?

Find an object you would like to use

in your daily life.

How would you use it?

How would you care for it?

Find an object or artwork.

Imagine you were the

creator's assistant.

How would you have helped make it?

Imagine you are

going on an adventure.

Choose three objects that you will take with you.

How would they help you on your adventure?

What item of clothing or accessory in your wardrobe makes you

feel strong?

Find an item that you think made the wearer feel strong. Discuss with a friend.

Pick an object. Think about

the skills

that have gone into making it.

What professions, sports or talents use skills or objects like this today?

First Nations tool making skills are taught within families from an early age.

Pick an object.

How old

do you think the maker was when they began learning the skills to make it?

If you

needed food

and there were no shops, what would you do?

Find a tool and describe how it could be used to help you get food.

Find an object you like.

If the

object could speak,

what would it say to you?

This exhibition's artworks and objects were made by many First Nations creators from many Countries.

If you could ask one of these creators

one question,

what would it be?

Look at the map of Indigenous Australia. Which Country

do you live on?

Did you already know you live on this Country? Have you heard of any of the other Countries?

Find a First Nations person whose

story is told

in the exhibition.

What do you find most interesting or important about their story?

Conversation starters

Bayala Nura

Primary and secondary school

Australian Museum conversation starters aim to ignite creative dialogue between students and their teachers. Through freedom of choice, fun questions and quick activities, students are able to investigate specimens and objects through a new lens. No prior knowledge of the exhibition is needed.

How to use

Conversation starters can be printed and used as they are or cut up for distribution. Students can work individually, in pairs or in groups. Use the Museum map to find the relevant exhibition.

Begin by gathering your students in a clear space within the exhibition.

Explain and distribute conversation starters in a way that is appropriate for your group.

Conclude where you began, giving students the opportunity to share their ideas and experiences.

Time needed: Approximately 3-5 minutes per card.

Learning steps



Connect – When choosing an artwork or object, encourage students to look closely.



Share – Students are encouraged to share and discuss their ideas through meaningful conversation.



Reflect – Through whole group discussion, students can reflect on their findings and experiences.