

Listening to Country helps us respect and care for the people, plants and animals around us.

Pick a display. What does it tell you

about Country?

Artworks and patterns can transport us to new places.

Find one that

transports you.

Where did it take you?
Describe the place you are now in.

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 objects tell stories about Country and the maker through their design and materials.

Pick an object. Think about its story

and create your own story in response.

Choose an object that you think would most help you

out at sea.

How would it help you?

Find an object you like.

If the

object could speak,

what would it say to you?

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?

Find an object or artwork.

Imagine you were the

creator's assistant.

Describe how you would have helped make it.

Objects in this exhibition come from coastal communities.

Pick an object. What does it tell you about the

place it comes from?

Discuss with a friend.

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.

The First Nations tools in the exhibition are

hand-made.

Choose an object. How do you think it was made?

First Nations Peoples connect to Country through their knowledge of the places they live.

Choose an artwork. What does it tell you about the artist's connection

to Country?

Conversation starters

Garrigarrang

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.