

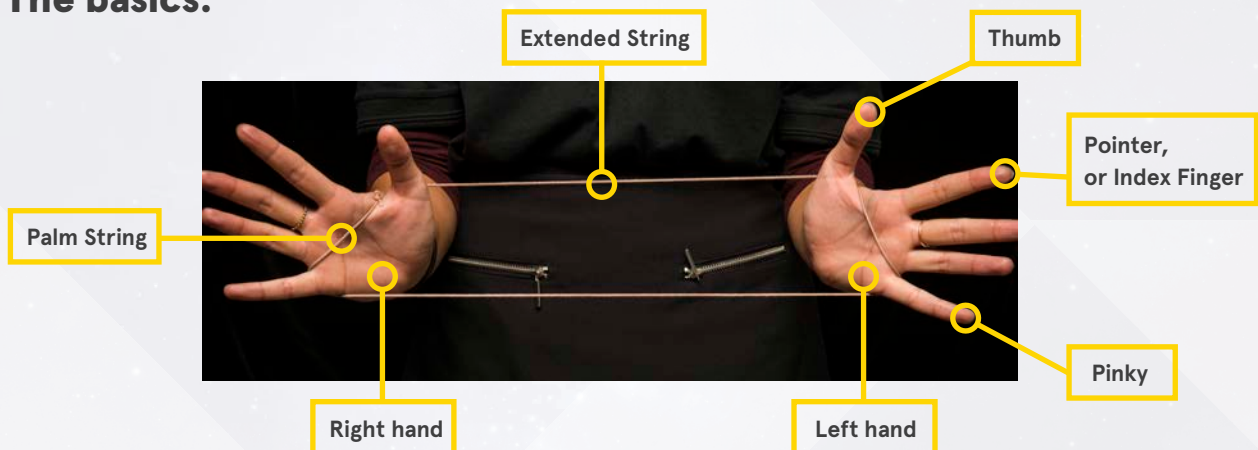
kamai (string games)

kardra (yam), Yandruwandha
language from Innamincka Country
(region of north-east South Australia)

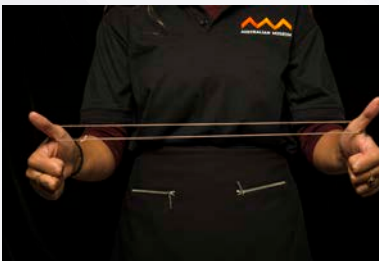


Many Aboriginal groups traditionally made patterns or designs on the hands with a loop of string. 'kamai' was among the names applied to string figures in north Queensland, 'meeroo-meeroo' in one area of Western Australia and 'wame' is the word used for string figures in the Torres Strait.

The basics:



Lets play!



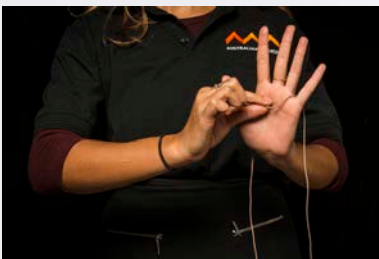
Step 1:
Hook thumbs into string loop -
extend



Step 2:
Hook pinky fingers under far
string - extend



Step 3:
Drop the right-hand string



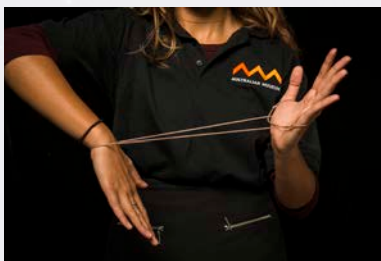
Step 4:
Using your right hand pull left
palm string and then drop



Step 5:
Pull left palm string one more
time and drop again



Step 6:
Thread your right hand through the
loop so that it is around your wrist
and both palms are facing each other



Step 7:

Move your right hand downward so your fingers face the floor. This will twist the strings



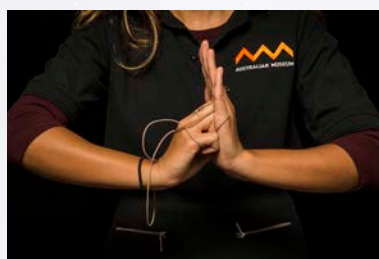
Step 8:

Pass right hand inward under the central wrist string and then slide upward until fingers touch your left palm. Then insert your middle and ring fingers of your right hand under the left palm string.



Step 9:

At the same time insert right little finger into left little finger loop and right index finger into left thumb loop (like in a prayer position)



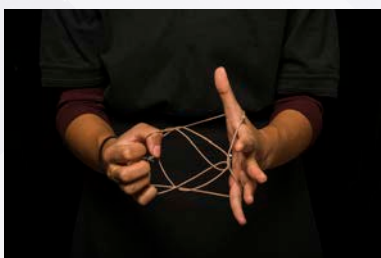
Step 10:

Now slide the fingers used in step 9 (right pinky and right index) around the outside of the left hand (hug).



Step 11:

Pull string away from left hand



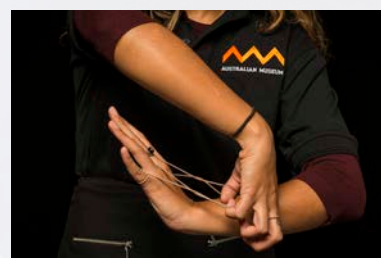
Step 12:

Don't extend string completely



Step 13:

Place your three middle fingers of left hand into the three middle loops so that a string is on either side of each finger



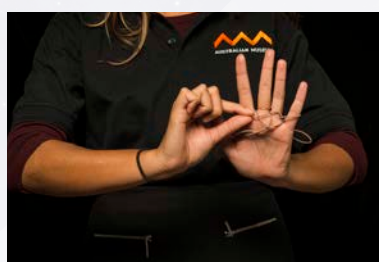
Step 14:

Place strings behind your left hand. In other words, pass your right hand over left hand so that the string rests on the back side of your left palm



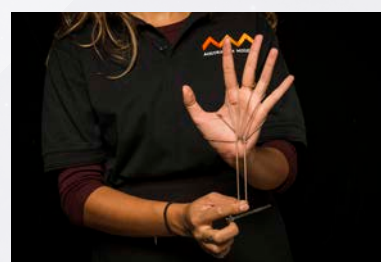
Step 15:

Release string of right hand



Step 16:

Pull left palm string under middle fingers



Step 17:

Congratulations! You have a yam