



UNIT 1: MY MOB

Unit 1: My Mob

Inquiry 2. Why is language important to culture?

Description:

Students examine how language is connected with culture. Students learn about formal and informal language and how this can help to define culture.

Student Activity Sheets

MM2.1 - Language
MM2.2 - Language Enquiry
MM2.3 - Reflection Sheet: Language and Culture

Background Information Sheets

Language and Culture
Communication
Wadu Matyidi Press Kit

1. VIEW

As a class, view the *Wadu Matyidi* animation and the Mini Doc: *Who We Are - Inhaadi Utyu Ngarlpurla*.

2. EXPLORE LANGUAGE

As a class, discuss what the students observe about the three main characters of the animation and the way they use language to communicate with one another. Ask the following open-ended questions to stimulate students thoughts and opinions about language:

- What do we know about the language that the three main characters were speaking?
- Was the language style of the characters formal or informal?
- Do you think it is important for different cultures to speak their own language?

Ask students to individually complete the questions in Language (Activity Sheet: MM2.1).

3. EXPLORE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Split the class into 3-6 small groups. Ask each group to read the Background Information Sheet Language and Culture and then discuss one of the following topics:

- How can language give us a sense of belonging?
- How might language create culture?
- How can different languages be preserved over time?

Each group should have a recorder and a reporter to capture the main points of their discussion on the Language Enquiry (Activity Sheet: MM2.2) sheet provided, for reporting back to the class.

Follow on from the activity with a class discussion about the Adnyamathanha Language class students represented in the Mini Doc: *Who We Are - Inhaadi Utyu Ngarlpurla* and their project *Wadu Matyidi*.

- How has the language class given these students a sense of belonging?
- How has the *Wadu Matyidi* project helped to preserve culture?

You may wish to refer to the Press Kit for additional background information about the *Wadu Matyidi* project.

4. REFLECT

Ask students to reflect on their small group discussion by completing the Reflection Sheet: Language and Culture (Activity Sheet: MM2.3).



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Inquiry 2. Why is language important to culture?

Activity Sheets:

MM2.1 - Language
MM2.2 - Language Enquiry
MM2.3 - Reflection Sheet: Language and Culture

1. View

Watch the *Wadu Matyidi* animation and Mini Doc: *Who We Are - Inhaadi Utyu Ngarlpurla*.

2. Explore Language

How did the three main characters in the animation *Wadu Matyidi* communicate with one another? How important do you think it is for different cultures to speak their own language? Discuss your ideas with the class. Use these ideas to complete your Language activity sheet. You might like to use an online dictionary or an online encyclopedia, such as Wikipedia, to help develop your answers.

3. Explore Language and Culture

With your group, read through the Background Information Sheet Language and Culture and select one of the following topics:

- i. How can language give us a sense of belonging?
- ii. How might language create culture?
- iii. How can different languages be preserved over time?

Discuss the topic with your group and use the Language Enquiry sheet to record any important points from your discussion so that you can report them back to the class.

Once you've heard from each of the groups, think about the Adnyamathanha Language class students in the Mini Doc: *Who We Are - Inhaadi Utyu Ngarlpurla* and their language project *Wadu Matyidi*. How do you think the language class has given these students a sense of belonging? Do you think the project helped to preserve the Adnyamathanha culture? Share your ideas with your class.

4. Reflect

Answer the questions in your Reflection Sheet: Language and Culture to show what you have learnt about language and culture.



UNIT 1: MY MoB

Name: _____

MM2.1

LANGUAGE

Now that you have just had a class discussion about language and watched the *Wadu Matyidi* animation and Mini Doc: *Who We Are - Inhaadi Utyu Ngarlpurla*, answer the following questions:

1. Write your own definition of the word *language* in the box below. You might like to use an online dictionary or encyclopedia for more help.

Language:

2. Can you think of any examples of different languages used in different cultures? Write them down.

3. Do you use language differently when you are talking to your friends compared to when you talk to an elderly relative? Write your answer and explain.



Name: _____

LANGUAGE ENQUIRY

Write the name of the topic allocated to your group in the space below. Use the lines to record any ideas, words or phrases that your group has about your topic, for feeding back to your class.

Your topic: _____

[illegible]



UNIT 1: MY MoB

Name: _____

MM2.3

Reflection Sheet.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

1. Use the table below to list any ideas about the following questions:

Why is language important to us?	How do we use language?	What are the benefits of using language?

2. Create a statement, to share with your class, which describes the connection between language and culture.
