

Mungo Man

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Mungo Man is the oldest skeleton ever found in Australia. How old is Mungo Man's skeleton? Approximately...
 - a. 400 years old
 - b. 4 thousand years old
 - c. 40 thousand years old
2. In which region was Mungo Man's skeleton discovered? Locate using Google Maps.
3. How did geologist Jim Bowler find the skeleton?
4. Why was the discovery of Mungo Man important?
5. What did the scientists learn by studying Mungo Man's skeleton and burial site?
6. What did the discovery of red ochre on Mungo Man's skeleton symbolise?
7. Why were the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Willandra Lakes angry?
8. When was Mungo Man's skeleton given back to the traditional owners of the land?
9. How did this story make you feel?
10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story?

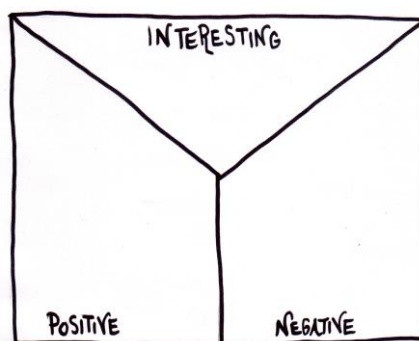
ACTIVITY

Note Taking

Students take notes while watching the BTN story. After watching the story, students reflect on and organise the information into three categories.

What information about Mungo Man was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



KWLH

Discuss the BTN *Mungo Man* story as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

KEY LEARNING

Students will explore the discovery of Mungo Man's skeleton at Lake Mungo.



HASS/ Knowledge & Understanding / History – Year 4

The diversity of Australia's first peoples and the long and continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country/Place (land, sea, waterways and skies)

HASS/ Knowledge & Understanding / History – Year 7

The nature of sources for ancient Australia and what they reveal about Australia's past in the ancient period, such as the use of resources.

How historians and archaeologists investigate history, including excavation and archival research.

The methods and sources used to investigate at least ONE historical controversy or mystery that has challenged historians or archaeologists, such as in the analysis of unidentified human remains.

<i>What do I <u>k</u>now?</i>	<i>What do I <u>w</u>ant to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>l</u>earnt?</i>	<i><u>H</u>ow will I find out?</i>

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, below are some examples.

- What discoveries were made at Lake Mungo?
- What did the scientists learn by studying Mungo Man's skeleton and burial site? What was life like for Mungo Man?
- What does the discovery of Mungo Man's skeleton tell us about the history of Australia?
- What is the significance of Mungo Man to scientists and Indigenous people.
- Why was there tension between scientists and Aboriginal people at the time of the discovery of Mungo Man's skeleton?

ACTIVITY

Key Words

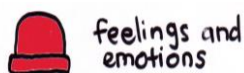
Students will develop a glossary of words and terms that relate to Mungo Man and archaeology. Below are some words to get them started. Students will add words and meanings to their glossary as they come across unfamiliar words throughout their research. Students may want to consider using pictures and diagrams to illustrate meanings.

Remains	Excavation	Site	Discovery
Archaeology	Artefacts	Mapping	Geology
Burial site	Ancient	Estimate	Radiocarbon dating

ACTIVITY

Six Hat Thinking

As a class, use Edward De Bono's *Six Hat Thinking* to explore the issues raised in the BTN *Mungo Man* story. Make your own coloured hat cut-outs and place on the floor. Students will take it in turns answering questions in relation to what they have learned from the BTN *Mungo Man* story and what they want to learn further about the topic. Ask students the following questions:



feelings and emotions

How did the *Mungo Man* story make you feel?



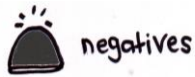
facts and information

What do you know about Mungo Man?
What have you learnt from the story?

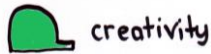


positives

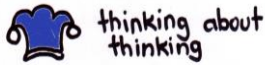
Were there any positives from the story? If so, what were they?



What are some of the negatives or challenges that you learnt from the story?



Why is it important to find out more about Mungo Man?



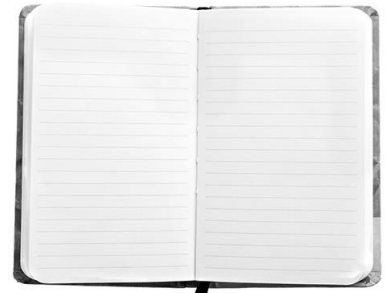
What questions were raised during this activity?
What do you want to learn further about this topic?

ACTIVITY

Journal writing

Students will imagine they are geologist Jim Bowler and they have just discovered Mungo Man's skeleton. Students will write a journal entry explaining how they feel about the discovery.

Students will then imagine they are one of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Willandra Lakes region and it is November 2017. Students will write a journal entry about how they feel now that Mungo Man has been given back and reburied at Lake Mungo.



Students will compare their responses, and then respond to the following question – Why was there tension between scientists and Aboriginal people at the time of the discovery of Mungo Man's skeleton?

ACTIVITY

How do we know about the ancient past?

Finding out about the ancient past can be difficult. Some ancient peoples and civilisations have left behind evidence of the past which help us learn about how they lived. But often our knowledge and understanding of the ancient past is incomplete.

How do we know about the ancient past? Brainstorm ideas as a class.

- Scientists make discoveries, like finding ruins or skeletons which help us understand how people used to live.
- Scientists use new technologies and new methods to investigate ancient structures.
- We can look at artefacts in museums, libraries and art galleries (primary sources).
- We can look at documents, like reports and newspapers, which can be found in the library or on the internet (secondary sources).

Students will then complete the following activities to learn more about the discovery of Mungo Man at Lake Mungo.

- Create a timeline to show significant events at Lake Mungo over the past 200,000 years.
- Where is Lake Mungo? Find using Google Maps. Where did geologist Jim Bowler find Mungo Man's skeleton?
- What technologies did scientists use during the discovery of Mungo man's skeleton?
- What were scientists able to find out about Mungo Man by studying his skeleton?



USEFUL WEBSITES

ABC News – Mungo Man: what to do next with Australians oldest remains

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-12/mungo-man-what-to-do-next-with-australias-oldest-remains/9371038>

National Museum Australia – Lake Mungo, 45,000 years ago

<http://www.nma.gov.au/kspace/teachers/mungo/learning>

ABC Education – Discoveries at Lake Mungo

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/522233/>