

# Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Hunting Tools Cloze **Answers**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are some of the oldest surviving civilisations in the world. **Throughout** history, they practised **sustainability** to make sure their land continued to provide for them. In order to do this, they used many clever tools to hunt and gather food for their tribe. Many of the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hunting tools were **multipurpose**, showing the **complexity** of the design **abilities** of traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

One of the most **commonly** used hunting tools was a spear. These were usually made from a curly vine called **Tecoma**. An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander man would heat the vine over a small fire. Doing this would dry out the **moisture** and make it easier to **straighten**. When the vine was hot, the maker shaped it into the form he wanted. Next, a wooden **barb** was attached to the **spearhead** by using kangaroo or emu **sinew**. The bottom end was then carved to fit onto a spear-thrower. When completed, the spear was around 270 **centimetres** long. These spears were used to hunt large animals such as **kangaroos** or emus.

'**Woomera**', also known as 'Miru' or spear-throwers were another **hunting** tool used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. They were made from mulga wood and used for several things. They were mainly used to **launch** a spear. The **thrower** placed the end of the spear into a small peg on the opposite end of the spear-thrower. The spear could then be launched with **power** at prey. **Inserted** into the handle of many spear-throwers was a very sharp piece of **quartz** rock. This was used for cutting, shaping or **sharpening**. The spear-thrower was also used as a **vessel** for mixing **ochre**, in ceremonies and to **repel** spears in battle.

