



Minutes of Evidence Curriculum & TRP



## Suggested questions for Minutes of Evidence Coranderrk Curriculum Teacher Resource Package **'Interviews with Indigenous Australians'**

The collected interviews (available on the resource website) have been conducted to offer a variety of viewpoints across a range of different themes/topics. Interview subjects have been selected to represent a number of different areas from across Victoria/southern NSW.

Certain terms and ideas are used in reference to Aboriginal histories and cultures (terms such as 'country', 'land', 'family' and spirituality) and people without specific knowledge of these terms as they pertain to Aboriginal identity and understandings may benefit from some background provided by these interviews.

Due to the fact that these are *individuals* reflecting on their own circumstances and experiences, it should not be presumed that other people will necessarily share the same views or experiences.

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Activity	Resource
<p>Working in pairs or small groups, choose an interviewee or two and answer the following questions using one or more of the suggested worksheets.</p> <p><b>(Note:</b> due to the fact that the interviewees respond in different ways and in varying detail, you may need to listen to several different interviews to ensure you can answer the related questions in some depth. Sharing information with your partner/group will help with this).</p>	<p><b>Interviews</b></p> <p>Interview video/audio available on resource website</p> <p><b>Useful worksheets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5WandH</li> <li>• Think/pair/share</li> <li>• KWHL</li> <li>• Seed discussion organiser</li> </ul> <p>Printable worksheets are available on the resource website</p>

## Sample questions

### Thoughts on Country

- **Where** is each of the interviewees from (what is their 'country'?)
- **What** defines a person's 'country' – **how** is the idea of 'country' explained?
- **What** is the meaning and significance of a 'welcome to country'? Relate several specific stories about 'country' shared by the interviewees.

### Thoughts on 'Spirituality/Identity'

- **How** is a 'spiritual identity' defined and what is its importance?
- **Why** is a sense of place important to Aboriginal spirituality?
- **How** do Christian beliefs (for some people) co-exist with other spiritual beliefs?
- **What** animals/totems are referred to – and what are some of the meanings/roles attached to these animals?

### Thoughts on 'Family'

- **What** is the importance of family to these interviewees?
- **How** does a sense of family serve to strengthen one's identity and culture?
- Several respondents liken the importance of family to 'oxygen' ("its like the air you breathe"). In **what** ways do **you** describe the importance of family?

### Thoughts on 'Land'

- **Why** is looking after the land important?
- According to Bill Nicholson and Tony Lovett, **how** has the treatment and recognition of land (and land use) differed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people?
- **What** have been some of the results of this treatment of land in Australia since European settlement?
- In **what** ways can Aboriginal people consider areas of land sacred?

**Extension Task:** working in pairs/small groups, create your own sets of questions after listening to the interviews. Swap questions with another pair/group and answer the questions given to you.