

WHAT DO YOU DO???

Serge has an assignment for school. He has to interview an interesting person in his community and find out about their work. Serge has organised to meet with Lisa.

Serge: What's your job at Forests NSW?

Lisa: I'm an Aboriginal cultural heritage officer.

Serge: What's the best part of your job?

Lisa: Finding Aboriginal sites, cultural material and bush foods. Also, working in the forest and chatting with Elders.

Serge: How does someone become an Elder? Is it like being a king or queen?

Lisa: The role of an Elder is given to an elderly person in our community. There are no kings or queens in Aboriginal culture.

Serge: Why are Aboriginal Elders so important?

Lisa: Elders are the keepers of knowledge, they are the people who teach you your laws (lores) and customs in your community. They teach the songs and stories of the ancestors, birds and animals and the environment.

Serge: Who are some of the other people you work with?

Lisa: I work with lots of people but overall it's the Aboriginal community and the foresters who manage State forests. It's important for foresters to know about the sites of Aboriginal significance in a forest area, especially when they're writing a harvesting plan. Harvesting plans set out which trees can be harvested to provide timber and other forest products and protect things like animals, waterways and Aboriginal sites.

Serge: What happens to an Aboriginal site during harvesting?

Lisa: All Aboriginal sites have a buffer zone around them where no harvesting is allowed and the area is left undisturbed. Different sites vary in significance to the local Aboriginal community. As a result, buffers are different sizes - the most significant sites will have the widest buffer zone.

Serge: Why are Aboriginal sites important?

Lisa: They're part of our heritage. They tell us stories of how we live and the type of things that are important to us. Sites hold all the information about our culture and are used to teach our children. Maintaining Aboriginal sites helps us to preserve our culture.

Serge: What type of things do you find at Aboriginal sites?

Lisa: Some of the sites contain rock art, axe grinding grooves, scar trees, water holes, middens, carvings, camp sites, hunting tracks, caves and rock shelters. Some sites you can't even see. Sometimes Aboriginal people just have a special connection with a place or feeling for it.

Serge: Is it true that Aboriginal men and women have different sites?

Lisa: Yes, there are women's sites and men's sites and each must protect their own.

Serge: How many sites are there?

Lisa: There are thousands of sites, many are thousands of years old. It's important to be on the lookout because new sites are always being recorded.

Serge: Can we go and see some Aboriginal sites?

Lisa: You must contact the local Aboriginal Land Council to find out which sites you can visit.

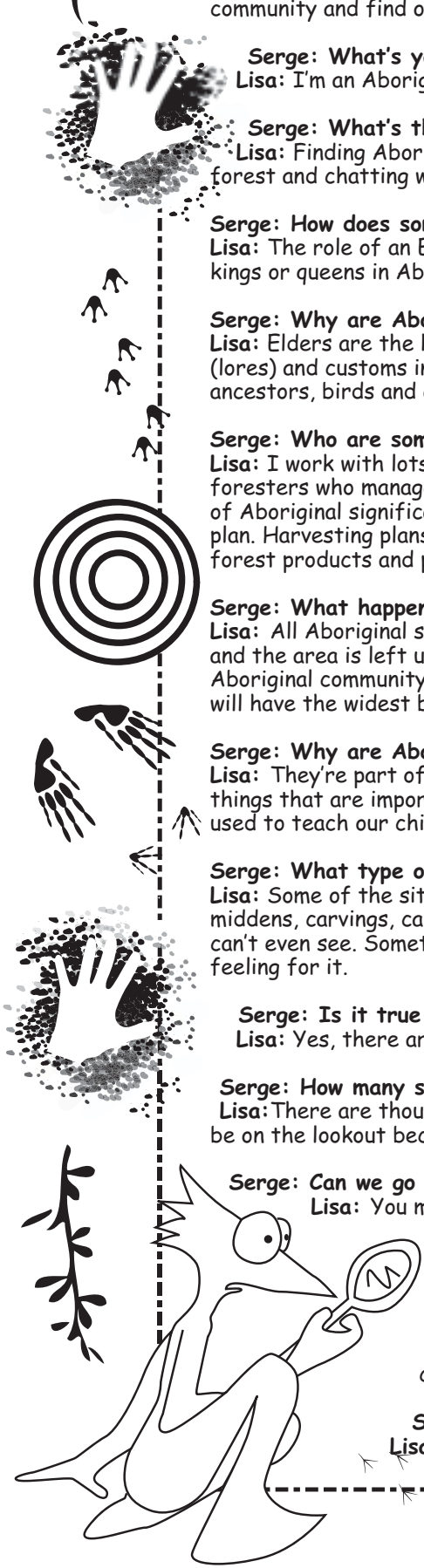
Serge: If some sites are rocks and things, they can't really get damaged can they?

Lisa: These sites have been there such a long time, even the weather over that time can cause damage. One of the main causes of damage is human activity and lack of understanding.

Serge: Do you really like bush tucker?

Lisa: Absolutely, I even make a really tasty kangaroo burger!

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE OFFICER

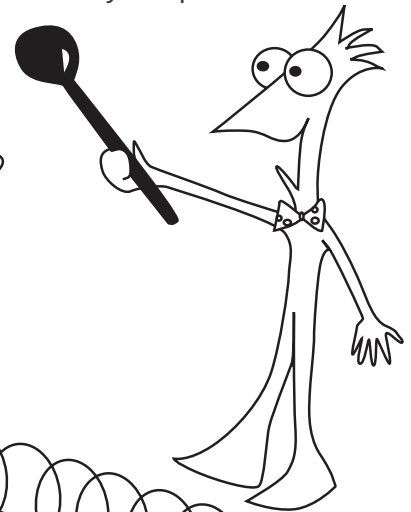


Sharing what we know through stories, paintings, books and even cooking are some ways we pass on information from one generation to the next. Often traditional ways of doing things change over time, like Lisa's kangaroo recipe, as the way we live changes.

1. How would traditional Aboriginal people have prepared kangaroo thousands of years ago?

2. What has changed in the way Lisa, as an Aboriginal woman, prepares kangaroo?

3. What traditions do your family keep?



Lisa's kangaroo burger

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

400g kangaroo mince
1 egg
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bread crumbs
1 tablespoon of dried herbs
1 small onion finely chopped
1 clove of garlic
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup tomato paste
1 grated carrot

Method:

Combine all ingredients, form into hamburger patties and shallow fry in a pan or bbq grill.

To serve:

Place the hamburger pattie on a hamburger bun and top with your favourite salad.

Someone in your family or a friend probably has a favourite recipe. See if they will share one with you and fill out this recipe card. Cut out and keep your recipe or collect a few and make your very own recipe book.

Serves:
Ingredients:

Method:

To serve:

