



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Exploring Aboriginal Art **Name:** Linda Koebelen & Marsha Carman
Other Team Members:
Program: Oklahoma Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Australia
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: Storytelling is an integral part of life for Indigenous Australians. The stories are of the history and culture of the people, handed down since the beginning of time, since the "Dreamtime". The stories help to explain how the land came to be shaped and inhabited; how to behave and why; where to find certain foods, etc. and may include songs, ceremonial dances and rituals that create unique beliefs that the Aboriginal people live by. These stories, now told in paintings, transmitted through the use of symbols are similar to the symbolism and storytelling used by the American Indians. Traveling more than 10,000 miles this summer, we investigated and made comparisons between the cultural and ethnic traditions of these two groups of people, the Indigenous Australians and the American Indians. In Alice Springs, as we visited a painting shed and interviewed some of the indigenous people who come in from the desert to paint, we gained a deeper understanding of their lives and the hardships that have been imposed upon them. We also learned that the number of Aboriginal people has changed since European settlement because of the effects of removal of people from traditional lands and the impact of cities and towns on populations. Today, indigenous people make up only 2% of the entire Australian population (about 410,000 people). This information will help us in teaching our students about the history, traditions and customs of other cultures.

Career Impact: *Broadened our understanding of the "Dreamtime".
*Provided an opportunity to interact with the indigenous Australian people.
*Participated in an interview with the gallery/painting shed owner
*Visited numerous art museums and galleries featuring Aboriginal art.

Classroom/Community Impact:*Collaborating with other disciplines to create cross curriculum learning opportunities.
*Gained new perspective on Aboriginal art and culture.
*Conducted interview with Aboriginal artist and gallery owner in order to facilitate learning in the classroom.
*Created new curriculum

Open Response: *We will be gather further information to present to our community and students.
*Powerpoint presentation for faculty and community.
*Student artwork display created from new curriculum unit.

Quote: "We hope to bring the excitement of traveling and learning about a different culture back to our students and learning community."

Photos:



Sydney Opera House



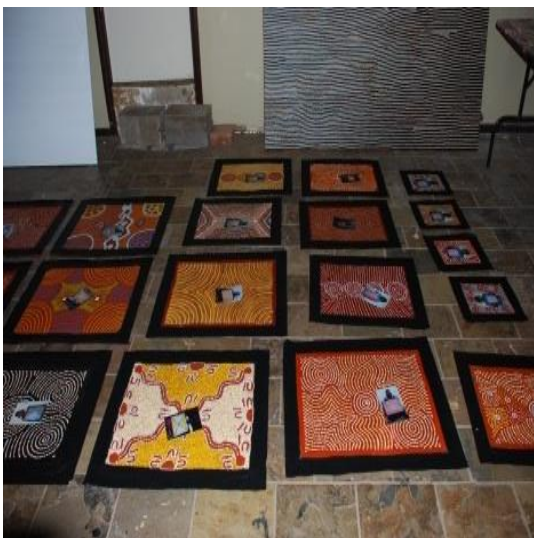
National Gallery of Art, New South Wales



Art Gallery in Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia



Artist Shed, Alice Springs



Indigenous paintings, Painting Shed



Interview with Lily, Aboriginal Painter



Ferry Ride, Sydney Harbor



Wallaby near Jamberoo, NSW