

Boomerangs

Use these words to fill the spaces in the text below:

- decoration
- wings
- wood
- weapon
- evidence
- returning
- elliptical
- location
- whirring
- Turuwal

DID YOU KNOW?
Today boomerang throwing is a sport and boomerangs are made from materials such as metal, plastic and plywood.

Europeans first saw throwing sticks being used by Indigenous Australians however there is _____ that they were also used thousands of years ago by Ancient Egyptians, Native Americans and the people of Southern India and Africa.

Originally the sticks were made of bone but _____ was also used where it was available. The sticks varied enormously in size, shape and _____, depending on the _____ of the people who made them and whether they were to be used for hunting, as a decoy, as a _____ in hand-to-hand combat, to make music or for recreation.

The most famous type is the _____ throwing stick. Although different Aboriginal groups had different names for it, the name which gained common useage was *boomerang* taken from the language of the _____ people near the George's River, Port Jackson, NSW.

Boomerangs were not used for hunting or warfare.

Boomerangs make a _____ sound when thrown and have two uneven arms or _____. These make them spin unevenly when thrown, creating an _____ path which brings it back to its origin.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Use the internet to find out more about the boomerang.

1. In what areas of Australia was the boomerang used? _____
2. How could a boomerang be used as a decoy? _____
3. Explain the science behind how the boomerang works. _____
4. What safety measures should you follow if throwing a boomerang? _____
5. List some current boomerang-throwing records: _____
6. The word *whirring* is an example of onomatopoeia ie a word which imitates the sound it denotes. What other examples can you think of? _____
7. Decorate the boomerang shape above in the colours and style of Indigenous Australian Art.