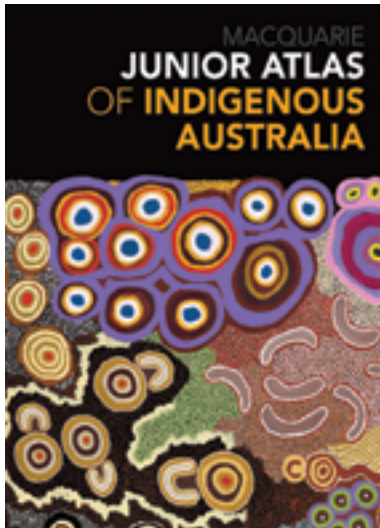


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## Junior Atlas of Indigenous Australia

By Macquarie Dictionary

Macquarie/Pan Macmillan

February 2022

Paperback, 192 pages

ISBN: 9781760984717

RRP: \$39.99

Reviewed by Kara Taylor, Irymple  
Secondary College

This reviewer was excited when she received this book in the mail and opened its pages. The *Junior Atlas of Indigenous Australia* was full of the most amazing photos, maps, pictures and language, and the reviewer could envision all the amazing ways it could be used in her secondary classrooms and with her primary-level daughters as well.

Then the publisher pulled it from the shelves due to public concerns over some of the content. Now, after a review completed independently by Professor Marcia Langton and Professor Aaron Corn, it is back on shelves and ready to be used and enjoyed. Both professors found no issues with the content and the authors (more than 40) who co-wrote it.

One of the issues that arose concerned the chapters about health and well-being showing data about alcohol and substance abuse. In a written statement, Langton and Corn noted they were happy with its inclusion, saying: 'These topics are usually suppressed but are important points that must be openly discussed in our efforts to improve health and quality of life outcomes.'<sup>1</sup>

The book guides readers through how Indigenous Australians lived, worked, cared for and loved the country that was a part of them as much as they were part of it. The Atlas goes right from Deep Time to today, with great chapters devoted to Deep History, Indigenous Mapping of Space and Place, Shelter and Housing, Fire and Sport. There is something for every class and at most year levels. While this review is for History teachers, most of us also teach other classes and this Atlas can be used across the entire school curriculum: History, Geography, Science, Language, Health and PE, Art and Politics, and it can be used in so many other ways.

The start of the Atlas teaches the reader how to use it. It acknowledges the use of both Indigenous forms of mapping in the chapter Place and Space, and then also teaches Western mapping skills and calls it this. It points out the geographical skills and how they are used within the Atlas, as well as noting special terms and words that are used. In a wonderful addition it also has fast facts about the topics around Australia and pronunciation for Indigenous words that are used within the information-rich pages. This is all topped off with a great timeline from 70,000 years ago until 1788.

This reviewer remains excited about this great addition to her bookshelves and tool box. The *Junior Atlas of Indigenous Australia* is full of learning, life and colour, and shows that learning about Indigenous history can be a whole-school endeavour. It can be recommended across all school year levels, for teachers who are new to Indigenous perspectives (as well as those who are experienced in this regard), and is a must-read for Humanities teachers across all sectors of education. It is a must-read for everyone.

As a side note, Macquarie has also published an *Atlas of Indigenous Australia* for older readers.

<sup>1</sup> Marcia Langton and Aaron Corn, 'Review of the *Junior Atlas of Indigenous Australia*,' Pan MacMillan Australia, May 24, 2022, <https://www.panmacmillan.com.au/review-of-the-junior-atlas-of-indigenous-australia/>