

# What are Special Objects?

For thousands of years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been making objects using **fauna** and **flora** as well as other natural materials such as stone, shell and water. They have made many different kinds of objects to suit their environment, lifestyle, and their personal tastes.

These objects include tools used for everyday survival, such as digging sticks, spears or grinding stones. They also include body decoration, such as necklaces or armbands, and clothes, such as grass skirts or skin cloaks. Other objects are used for play, storytelling activities and special events.

- ✓ Simon Naawi (left) and Pensio Gela (right) making a Zarzi (grass skirt) for their daughters' dance costume at Yorke Island in the Torres Strait.



Objects are an important way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to pass on their **culture** from one **generation** to the next.

In this book, you will read stories about individuals and groups of people, and discover how each of them is linked to objects. These five special objects are from collections held by the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.



🔺 This map shows the important places mentioned in this book.