



**ABBEY  
MUSEUM**

OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

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## Discovering Moreton Bay

### Environmental Heritage Trail Beach Walk



## CHANGES IN MORETON BAY AT GODWIN BEACH

1. Look across Moreton Bay. It is shaped like a huge shallow fish trap, with Bribie Island on the left; Deception Bay and Redcliffe Peninsula on the right and blocked to sea by two long islands. What are their names?

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2. About what date did the first Australian Aboriginals come to Moreton Bay?

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3. How was Moreton Bay different then? Describe the evidence we have seen that sea levels have changed since the Ice Age.

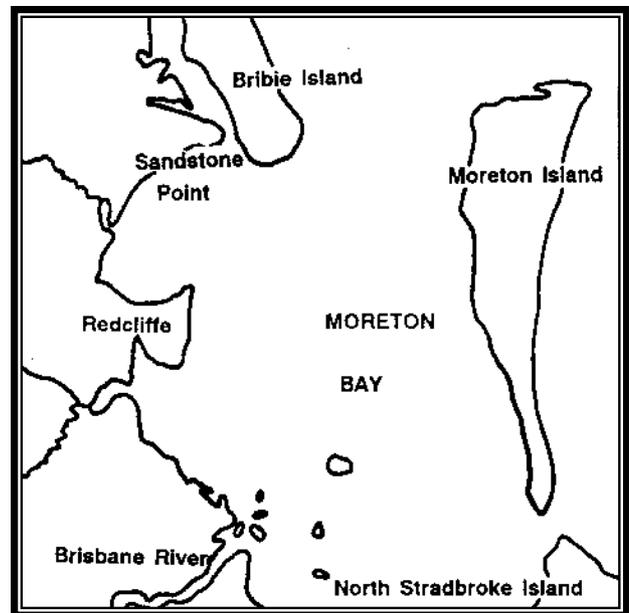
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4. What caused Moreton Bay to become flooded by the ocean?

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5. Do you think this could happen again? What might cause it?

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**WALKING ALONG GODWIN BEACH**

6. Mud flats and mangrove swamps are part of the coastal estuarine landscape. They may be muddy and smelly but they are full of life and are vital to the ecology. Give three reasons why they are important.

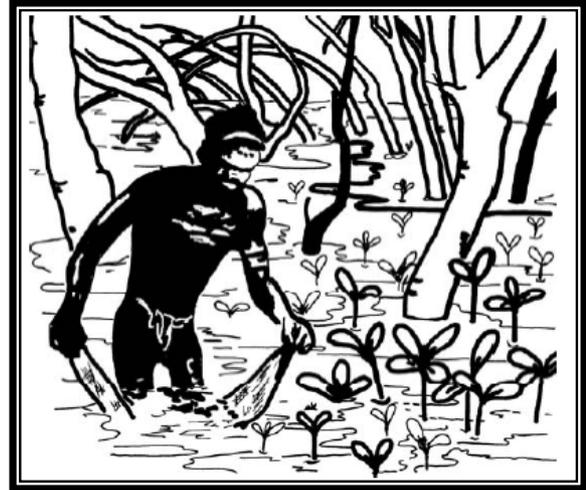
a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Aboriginal people used these areas to collect food. Name three types of food that come from mangrove swamps and mudflats.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. Hundreds of wading birds use the mudflats as feeding grounds before migrating overseas. Where do they go?

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9. Extensive meadows of sea grass once covered most of the shallow waters of Moreton Bay, but now it has been reduced by pollution. The Toorbul Point area is one of the largest areas of sea grass left. Why is it so important?

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10. The Aboriginal people who lived in this area were known as the Ningi People. What does Ningi mean?

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11. What is a dugong?

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12. The Aboriginals of Toorbul Point used the dolphin to help them catch fish.

How was it used?

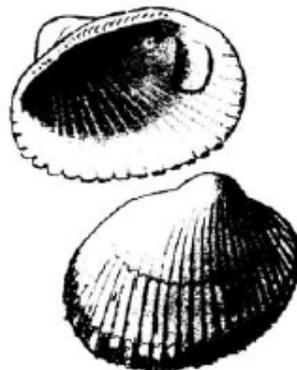
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### **SANDSTONE POINT MIDDEN**

13. Middens are Aboriginal refuse dumps, composed of tonnes of shell. The Midden at Sandstone Point is the largest in south-east Queensland. By using your eyes along the beach, can you find these shells? What are they called?



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14. Why do you think Sandstone Point is so important to archaeologists?

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15. The Hanging Tree. Early settlers often treated the Aboriginals very badly. They were hunted like animals, given poisoned food and their women abused. Between 1824, when Europeans first arrived in Moreton Bay, until 1900, the local Aboriginals were virtually exterminated. What are your feelings about the attitude of the early colonial settlers towards Aboriginals?

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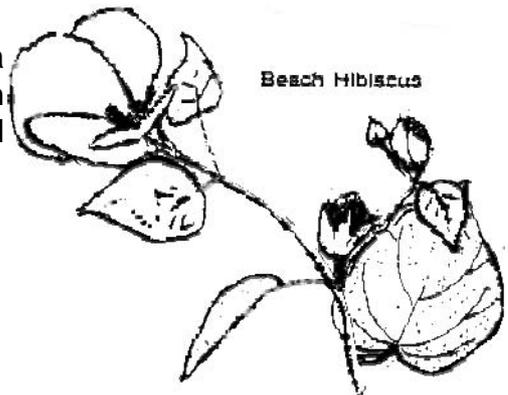
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16. Near the midden at Sandstone Point is a common Queensland tree, the Beach Hibiscus or Cotton Tree. What did Aboriginal people use it for?

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17. The wave cut cliff at Sandstone Point Midden was formed at the end of the last Ice Age. How old is it and what does it tell us about changing levels of the ocean?

How old? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it tell us? \_\_\_\_\_

**SITTING ON THE ROCKS AT SANDSTONE POINT**

18.   Aboriginals had to live off the land. This meant they could not afford to waste the resources available to them. If you had only a knife and the clothes you wore, what would you need to do to survive?

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19.   At Toorbul Point, Aboriginals built huts for shelter using the bark of Paperbark Tree . What evidence is there for this?

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**TOORBUL POINT BORA RING**

20.   What was the Bora ring used for?  
Tick the box

DANCING	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIGHTING	<input type="checkbox"/>
PLAYING GAMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	INITIATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>
CATCHING FROGS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CORROBOREES	<input type="checkbox"/>
SINGING TELLING	<input type="checkbox"/>	STORIES	<input type="checkbox"/>

21.   At what age were boys initiated? \_\_\_\_\_

22.   Were girls initiated too?    YES     NO

23. For modern Australians, becoming adults is a fairly painless process. But young Aboriginals undertook a frightening, painful initiation. Why did Initiation take place and what do you think it achieved?

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24. The small ring is out of sight down a slope that dates from the last Ice Age and is a continuation of the wave-cut cliff we saw at Sandstone Point. Why do you think it was hidden?

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25. A suburb of Redcliffe is named after a small ring. What is it?

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26. We still use many Aboriginal words as names for Brisbane suburbs and cities. List two places with Aboriginal names and what they mean.

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27. The Bora Ground is one of the most sacred sites for Aboriginal people. Even today, an Aboriginal from another area will usually not walk near the sacred ring. What does this tell us about Aboriginal protocols?

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28. If you were a young person being led down the track ('Sacred Way'), for Initiation, imagine your thoughts as you went to become a Kippa. What do you think might have been going through your mind?

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**PEBBLE BEACH FISH TRAP**

29. The Fish Trap is a very simple but clever way of collecting large numbers of fish by utilising the natural landscape. Explain how the fish trap works.

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30. Draw it:

31. There is some dispute as to who built the fish trap. Some people believe Kanaks (South Pacific Islanders) who were brought to the district in the 1800s to work in the sugar and cotton plantations were responsible. Basically, the evidence is as follows:

**FOR ABORIGINALS HAVING BUILT THE FISH TRAP**

They have inhabited this area for thousands of years.

The trap has been recorded as being an Aboriginal trap since 1900.

Aboriginals built fish traps in many other parts of Australia. The nearest one is at Hervey Bay.

Fish remains in the midden at Sandstone Point escalate dramatically from about AD 1500 onwards. One reason would be the construction of the fish trap.

**FOR KANAKS HAVING BUILT THE FISH TRAP**

They were in the area.

The fish trap is similar to ones in their home area.

Petrie and other Europeans who documented the Aboriginals in this area make no mention of the fish trap although they passed by in boats on several occasions.

**FOR EUROPEANS HAVING BUILT THE FISH TRAP**

The local property owner claims to have helped build the fish trap in the 1930s.

So the question is still unresolved. If you were to try and discover who did build the fish trap, where might you search for further evidence?

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32. Why do you think this is a good location for a fish trap?

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33. The Aboriginals made tools of wood, bone and stone. Draw two types of stone tools.

34. Name a tool and a weapon made from wood.

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35. The main food of Aboriginals in the Moreton Bay region was fish, shellfish and bungwall fern. What is bungwall fern and how was it used?

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36. In hunter-gatherer societies, such as that of the Australian Aboriginal, men usually hunted and women gathered food. Women in fact provided around 70% of the food requirements. List five foods collected by women.

NAME IT	WHERE FOUND	HOW COLLECTED

37. Why do you think women were the chief providers? Does this tell us something about their importance in Aboriginal society?

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38. As we have seen, Moreton Bay was one of the richest areas in terms of food resources anywhere in Aboriginal Australia and the Bay possibly supported one of the highest populations in Queensland. Men hunted and fished. List five things hunted for food by the men.

NAME IT & DRAW IT	WHERE FOUND	HOW CAUGHT

39. Whose memorial is on the Bribie Island Road?

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40. What was the name of the Aboriginal people who lived at Toorbul Point?

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