

Tangible heritage

Step into the past with tangible heritage, things you can see and touch that tell stories of history and culture.

From ancient rock art to historic buildings and precious artefacts, these treasures connect us to the world's rich traditions. Explore, protect, and celebrate the beauty of our shared heritage!



What is tangible heritage?

Tangible heritage refers to physical objects and places that hold cultural, historical, or artistic significance. These are things we can see and touch, which have been preserved over time to reflect the values, beliefs, and traditions of a community.

Preserving tangible heritage is vital because it provides a direct link to our past, offering insights into the development of societies and fostering a sense of identity and continuity. These physical remnants of history are not just static relics, they inspire curiosity and education, enabling people of all ages to connect with their heritage and understand the world's diverse cultures.

By safeguarding tangible heritage, we ensure future generations can learn from these treasures, fostering respect for cultural diversity and shared history. Efforts to protect these cultural assets, whether through conservation, restoration, or responsible tourism also contribute to sustainable development, supporting local communities and their economies. Tangible heritage serves as a bridge between past and present, reminding us of humanity's resilience, creativity, and enduring spirit.

Examples of tangible heritage

- Buildings and monuments: Historic structures like old lighthouses, stone cottages, or sacred sites such as Uluru.
- Artefacts: Objects like ancient tools, artworks, clothing, or ceremonial items.
- Cultural landscapes: Areas that show how people have lived and worked, such as First Nations rock art sites or agricultural land shaped by farming practices, such as Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, located on Gundjitrara Country in Victoria.

Sources:

- [Indigenous Heritage](#)

Intangible heritage

Dive into the heart of culture with intangible heritage, the stories, songs, traditions, and knowledge passed down through generations. From ancient languages to sacred ceremonies, these living treasures keep history alive.

Celebrate the spirit of heritage that you can feel, hear, and experience!



What is intangible heritage?

Intangible heritage refers to the traditions, stories, knowledge, and skills that are passed down through generations. Unlike tangible heritage, which includes physical objects and places, intangible heritage is about the things you can't touch but can see, hear, and experience in the way people live their lives. It's a vital part of culture and identity.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, intangible heritage is deeply connected to their Country, culture, and identity. It includes knowledge about Dreaming stories, how to manage the environment and the meanings behind sacred sites and ceremonies. Preserving intangible heritage is important because it keeps cultural traditions alive, helps people stay connected to their history, and passes it on to future generations.

In today's rapidly changing world, intangible heritage is at risk of being lost due to urbanisation, globalisation, and cultural assimilation. Efforts to protect and promote it, such as recording oral histories, supporting cultural festivals, and teaching traditional skills, are essential to maintaining the rich tapestry of human culture. By valuing and preserving intangible heritage, we honour the stories and knowledge that connect us to the past while inspiring creativity and resilience for the future.

Examples of intangible heritage

- Languages: The words and stories spoken by a community, including Indigenous languages and oral histories.
- Cultural practices: Ceremonies, dances, songlines, and traditional crafts like weaving or painting.
- Knowledge and skills: Understanding how to care for the land, navigate by the stars, or prepare traditional foods.

Sources:

- [Protecting Aboriginal Intangible Heritage](#)