First Nations peoples traded cultural artefacts and practices across the continent prior to colonisation. Print and cut out copies of these trading cards to facilitate a trade simulation.

Wooden spears

Hand crafted from wood, the spear was a weapon used for hunting and combat purposes.



Pearl shells

These were one of the most commonly and widely traded items, and would be traded for goods that couldn't be found locally.



Flaked stone tools and spear points

Mainly used for hunting to be placed on the tips of spears meant that they were extremely valuable items for trade.



Stone cutting tools

Stone tools were used to cut wood and bark from trees, to grind food and ochre and to fashion weapons and tools.







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Ochre

This mineral had an enormous value and was traded amongst different clans across the continent as a sacred and highly valuable item used in ceremony.



Greenstone

First Nations peoples quarried for different types of stone such as greenstone that was used for different purposes such as creating stone axes.



Spinifex gum resin

This is a crucial ingredient in spear-making as it is used to fasten the head onto the shaft of the spear. Clumps of resin would often be carried so repairs could be made during travel.



Boomerangs

Used in hunting as a weapon and tool, for hunting and digging and in ceremonies, boomerangs were widely exchanged amongst First Nations groups across the continent.







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Edge-ground axes

These edge-ground axes were crafted with great skill on Quandamooka Country. They were likely attached to wooden handles using natural adhesives.



Fish traps

A variety of stone traps made by Aboriginal peoples are designed to catch fish and migrating marine life.



Tachylite

A volcanic glass stone used to make stone tools and weapons, highly valued by Traditional Custodians in Victoria.



Grinding stone

This grinding stone was found on Quandamooka Country. They were used to crushrind or pound different materials such as processing foods for cooking.







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Hammerstone

A cobble stone used to strike a core (different stone material type) to create flakes and stone artefacts in a process known as knapping.



Coolamon

These multi-purpose shallow vessles are used to carry water, fruits, nutes and sometimes as a baby carrier.





