Wayanyagem
Gija word from the artist’s country meaning ‘little ones’

PADDY BEDFORD

ACTIVITY SHEET FOR 4-7 YEAR OLDS

Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.
Children aged 5 and under may need assistance.
Please do not touch the artwork.

This is an exhibition by the Gija artist Paddy Bedford. The artworks have many memories and stories to tell.

Mr Bedford was born around 1922 and passed away recently in Kununurra.

Mr Bedford’s language was Gija.
Which language do you speak? _________________________
The artist painted pictures of stories about the country where his mother and father came from.

Sometimes the stories are told by people singing and dancing.

**AT HOME** make up a song about your family and where you live.

This painting shows a place in Mr Bedford’s mother’s country which has a big flat rock.

Once upon a time a frill-necked lizard was camping on the rock and was cooking yams on a fire. Along came a brown falcon and stole the yams and the fire.

**LOOK** for the painting in the gallery.

**Draw an animal in a place where YOU live...**
Emu dreaming

This is the story of the emu that travelled across the country and got stuck in a gap in a rock.

An EMU is called a gamanganyjel in the Gija language.

Can you find this Emu Dreaming painting on the wall in the gallery?

Draw the gamanganyjel stuck in the rock.
LOOK at the shapes in the paintings.
Draw all the shapes you can find in these boxes.
Fish Hole dreaming

Look for this painting.
It shows a place called Warooban where the bat threw spears at the crocodile.
The short-neck turtle carried the crocodile’s body away along the river bed.

The red part of the painting is the rocks on the river bank.
The black parts show the living water.

Draw the bat and the crocodile and the turtle...
Kimberley Boab Tree

Boab tree image courtesy of Giancarlo Mazzella.

Paddy Bedford painted pictures about the land.

The boab tree can only be found in the Kimberley region of Western Australia where Paddy Bedford comes from.

Boab trees are called Jumuluny in Gija.

The tree grows nuts which are used to make medicine by the local Kimberley tribes. You can eat the nuts and carve patterns in them to make a decoration.

Colour in the boab tree.

Decorate the boab tree nuts
### Find the words.

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1. Kimberley
2. Dreamtime
3. Kangaroo
4. Goanna
5. Barramundi
6. Bedford
7. Australia
8. Paintings
9. Colour
10. Land
11. Water
12. Air
13. Grass
Once there was a group of young men travelling south across Gija country towards Gooniyandi land. The white cockatoo stopped them and said, “You are not Gooniyandi people. Where will you stay? You should stay right here.” The men stopped their journey and stayed in Gija country. They turned into rocks and became the country where Mr Bedford’s father lived.

Look for this painting.

Can you see the paint marks?

The black shape is the water hole where the men stopped to drink when they were travelling across the land.

The little white circle shape is the cockatoo who stopped them moving away from Gija country.

Draw yourself on a journey.
We hope you enjoyed this worksheet and the exhibition *Paddy Bedford*. Don’t forget to return your clipboard and pencil!

Worksheet produced by the MCA Education Department. Written by Samantha Martin and Petra Pattinson, MCA Educator. Contributions by Justine McLisky and Keith Munro. Published by Museum of Contemporary Art, December 2006. Sincere thanks to Frances Kofod, Cultural and linguistic consultant, and Rusty Peters for their valuable contributions.

In association with the exhibition
*Paddy Bedford*
MCA Galleries Level 1 and Mezzanine
6 December 2006 – 15 April 2007

**Paddy Bedford**
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
6 December 2006 – 15 April 2007

Exhibition organised by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Curated by Russell Storer, MCA Curator, with the assistance of Keith Munro, Curator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs.

The Museum of Contemporary Art acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, traditional owners of the land and waters the MCA is located upon and where this exhibition was first presented. The MCA acknowledges the artist’s Gija people, whose strength and resilience is seen through Paddy Bedford’s artistic practice. We also acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and waters of those venues hosting the Paddy Bedford exhibition on its national tour.

The MCA acknowledges the recent passing in Kununurra of the artist and senior Gija Elder Mr Paddy Bedford. The Museum has consulted closely with the artist’s family and with Jirrawun Arts, of which Mr Bedford was a founding member. We acknowledge and respect the wishes of the family who have provided permission for us, on the occasion of the MCA exhibition, tour and publication of Mr Bedford’s work, to share publicly sensitive aspects that would normally be culturally inappropriate during sorry business. This includes the display of the artist's work, film and audio recordings, images of the artist and the use of his name.

Major sponsor

This exhibition is supported by the Contemporary Touring Initiative through Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

An MCA National Touring exhibition:
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth: 12 May–22 July 2007
Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo: 11 August–16 September 2007
University Art Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane: 16 November 2007–1 March 2008

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