

# Artist Activities

## Big Boat Adventure with Arone Raymond Meeks



Arone Raymond Meeks, *Spirit Ark*, 2009, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, purchased 2009, image courtesy Cairns Art Gallery Collection, donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by the artist, 2011 © Arone Raymond Meeks / Copyright Agency

Arone Raymond Meeks is an artist from the KuKumidiji clan of Laura, far North Queensland who currently resides in Cairns. His work is about his culture, and the interaction of relationships, gender, tradition, spirituality, and the environment.



Image left: Arone Raymond Meeks, *Bush Figures*, 1988, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, purchased 2009, Gordon Darling Fund © Arone Raymond Meeks / Copyright Agency

My art is about the Country where I come from, creation and culture. Boats have played a strong part in this history, used to travel, trade, and meet new people. Today we see boats propelled by engines to glide across bodies of water, but traditionally boats were guided by knowledge of weather patterns and cycles, with sails which caught the wind. Aboriginal people made boats or canoes from bending and moulding the bark of tall trees, a skill many Aboriginal people continue today to express their culture and pass on knowledge.

In my art, boats symbolise growth and the many personal journeys that we all embark on throughout our lives. They also represent global migration and cultural groups who are forced from their home countries to seek new ones.

Throughout history, many boats have visited our shores. Did you know a lot of Australian people, except the First Australians, came to Australia by boat? You might want to ask your parents, if their grandparents came to Australia by boat, and which country they came from?

## The Big Boat Adventure

### You will need

- A4 paper
- Pencils
- Scissors



**Before you begin, you might like to add shapes or pops of colours to your paper.**



**Step 1.**

With your paper laying in a portrait orientation, fold in half so that the top half meets the bottom.

**Step 2.**

Now, fold in half again to mark the middle of the fold and open.

**Step 3.**

Take the two top corners and fold each corner to the middle evenly to create two triangular shapes.

**Step 4.**

Now you have a triangle on top of a long rectangle shape. Take the bottom of the rectangle and fold where it meets the base of the triangle. Do this on both sides so that it resembles a hat.

**Step 5.**

Open your hat to create a flat square shape and fold the ends of the rectangle under the flap.

**Step 6.**

Arrange your square into a diamond shape in front of you, with the folded rectangle facing downwards. Now fold each end in half to meet the top of the diamond and to create a triangle.

**Step 7.**

Place your finger and thumb at the base of the folded line and open. Fold and press firmly to flatten the shape.

**Step 8.**

Place your fingertips at the top of the diamond and pull the two sides downwards to reveal your boat.

After you have made your boat you can take it on a big boat adventure, sailing off to faraway places. You might like to think about who or what you would take with you. It could be your best friend, family member, or even a favourite food! You could draw them directly onto the boat or cut and paste to collage the exterior.



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