



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

# Wingara

'win-gar-a'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
K-3

## Background

A guessing game played by Aboriginal children in the areas around Newcastle in New South Wales was described. Using the kernel of a wild plum the children drew a picture of a fish or animal. This was concealed in a closed hand and the group sat around and attempted to guess what was represented on it. When the drawing was guessed there was a loud shout of laughter.

## Language

The game is called *wingara* ('to think') in the language spoken by the people in the Sydney and surrounding areas.

## Short description

A simple guessing game in which players attempt to guess what has been drawn or written on a piece of paper. This game is recommended for younger players.

## Players

- A group of two to eight players

## Playing area

- An indoor area such as a classroom is suitable

## Equipment

- A pencil and small pieces of paper (a small whiteboard and pen or a Pictionary game set could also be used)

## Game play and basic rules

- The players close their eyes or turn away while a player draws a picture — or writes the name — of a fish or animal. When the player is finished he or she folds up the paper and places it in the palm of the hand or otherwise hides it.
- The other players attempt to guess what has been drawn. If a player guesses successfully the paper is unfolded to indicate that he or she was correct.

- The player who guessed correctly has the next turn or players may follow an agreed order.

### **Variations**

- Players draw or write a word from a list or from a defined area such as sport, famous people, minerals, fruits and so on.
- Hints are given if players cannot guess correctly.
- The game may be played by the picture-drawer answering 'Yes' or 'No' to questions by the other players.

### **Teaching points**

- Draw or write on the paper. Other players turn away.
- Ready. First person have a guess.
- Next. Keep going.
- Any hints? Good.
- Well done. Next turn.