a. Lesson / Activity Title: Kangaroo Relay and Boomerang Toss

b. Audience and Facilitation Style: small group interactive learning
   family relay race and skills activity

c. Lesson Goals: Participants will learn how to properly throw a boomerang and identify
   common wildlife of Australia.

d. Description of space needed / set up: Need a rectangular space, preferably outdoor, of
   approximately 30 x 60 feet.

*** O = boomerang targets
e. Description of equipment and supplies needed:

**Teaching Visuals**
- Pictures: Koala Bear / Kangaroo

**Teaching Instructions**
- How to properly throw a boomerang

**Supplies**
1) Display Table
2) 8 Bed Risers
3) 8 Soda Cans
4) 8 Photos (4 Koala Bear / 4 Kangaroo)
5) 4 Boomerangs
6) Watch with timer
7) 4 Potato Sacks

f. Participant outcome objectives:
1. Identify the two most common wildlife animals of Australia.
2. Throw a boomerang with proper technique.
3. State how a boomerang was used in past-day Australia.

g. Detailed lesson plans

Gather families at the station in front of the display table. A background of kangaroos and koala bears will be given before proceeding to the actual activity. A minimum number of
two families is needed to complete this activity. This activity can accommodate up to 4 families (1 boomerang per family).

Hi everyone and welcome to Australia! My name is Angela and I’m excited to teach everyone some interesting facts about Australia. We are also going to play some fun activities to incorporate what we’ll be learning today!

Usually when people think of Australia, 2 popular animals pop in to their heads.

ASK - Can anyone think of what those animals might be?

Listen to responses from participants. Regardless of whether or not participants can guess the animals, proceed to display photos of the 2 popular animals (kangaroo and koala bear). If participants are having trouble guessing after the pictures, help hint them towards the correct response.

ASK - Does anyone know anything about the kangaroo?

Possible questions if no responses: What does it look like? (brown, furry)

How does it travel on land? (by hopping)

After participants discuss their knowledge on kangaroos, read fun facts about kangaroos from the display board.

Use facts:

Kangaroos

• The Red Kangaroo is the largest kangaroo and can weigh up to 200 pounds. It can travel as fast as 40 miles per hour and jump as high as 10 feet!
• They are the only large animals that move by hopping.
• The reason they hop is because they can’t move their legs independently (meaning they can’t move their back two legs at different times like humans).
• They cannot move backwards.

After discussing kangaroo facts, proceed to change the subject by asking:

ASK - Now, does anyone remember what I said to be the other popular animal of Australia?

Listen to responses from participants. If participants are struggling to answer, show them the picture of the koala bear on the display table and see if that helps. If not, try and hint them towards the correct response.

Correct response: Koala Bear
**ASK** - Can anyone name some fun facts about the koala bear?

Possible questions if no responses: What does it look like? (grey and white, furry, small)

Where can you usually find a koala bear? (in a tree)

After participants discuss their knowledge on koala bears, read fun facts about koala bears from the display board.

**Use Facts:**

**Koala bears**

- Koala bears aren’t actually bears. They are marsupials, also known as a mammal with a pouch on the front of its body to carry its baby.
- The majority of them live in Eucalyptus trees in Eastern Australia (which are only found in Australia) and eat the leaves from the tree as their food. They eat about 2 1/2 pounds of leaves each day!
- Koala bears sleep up to 18 hours a day.

Now that everyone knows some fun facts about kangaroos and koala bears, let’s play an exciting activity to go along with it!

The purpose of this activity is to have fun, hop like a kangaroo, and learn how to throw a boomerang. You will be racing in potato sacks with your family then finishing the race by throwing the the boomerang in attempt to knock over both a kangaroo and koala bear target.

Proceed to show participants how to properly throw a boomerang.

Before we begin the race, I want to do a demonstration on how to properly throw a boomerang.

Boomerangs date back 10,000 years and were used for both hunting and fighting.

To throw a boomerang correctly, you must

1) place the boomerang between the thumb and forefinger with the thumb on the curved surface.

2) Tilt the boomerang backwards, then thrust in forward and release it as you straighten out your arm.

3) Make sure to throw the boomerang overhand, like a baseball.
At the end of the race, you are allowed to throw the boomerang horizontally in order to make it easier to hit the targets.

The rules for this activity are:

1. Only one family member may hop in the potato sack at a time. Because kangaroos cannot hop backwards, you are not allowed to
2. When your family member crosses the line, they must take off the potato sack and hand it to the next person in line.
3. After each member of your team has successfully hopped from the starting line to the designated finish line, your entire team must proceed to the field of targets.
4. Grab the boomerang that is designated for your team and one at a time, throw the boomerang and try to hit both a kangaroo and koala bear before finishing the race (a volunteer will help retrieve boomerangs).
5. Once your team has successfully knocked down a kangaroo and koala bear, you may cross the finish line.

Crossing the finish line will earn you and your family a stamp in your passport and get you one step closer to finishing the amazing race!

**Make sure to inform participants that this is not a competition. Their goal is to simply complete the activity in order to earn a stamp.

Once everyone has finished, gather participants by display table.

h. Summarize:

ASK - What did everyone find to be the most difficult part of the activity?

Was it hopping in the potato sacks or hitting the targets with a boomerang?
Point to pictures on display board of kangaroo and koala bear.

**ASK -** Can anyone rename the two animals that were used as targets that we talked about before the activity?

Answer: Kangaroo and Koala Bear

**ASK -** What is ONE thing you learned today about the Kangaroo, Koala Bear, or boomerang?

Listen to responses from participants.

Thank you everyone for your cooperation and participation in this Australian Activity. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves! Does anyone have any questions for me? Answer questions.

Before everyone goes, I need to stamp their passport!

Stamp passports and say goodbye WITH A BIG SMILE!

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**Koala Bear facts:** [http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/koala/](http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/koala/)

**Boomerangs:** [http://www.boomerangs.org/how.html](http://www.boomerangs.org/how.html)