



Indigenous Culture in the Upper Murray

Tools at Tumbarumba Museum Answers

1. Stone tools and implements, unlike wooden tools, are very durable and are therefore over represented in museum collections. Many tools and implements such as boomerangs, nulla nullas (clubs), woomeras, spears and throwing sticks were made of non-durable materials and did not survive.
2. When stone tools and implements are removed from their natural state without a proper study by qualified people, their 'provenance' or history can be quickly lost. It is illegal to disturb historical Indigenous sites, even if the site consists of a single implement. Should you or a member of your family find something that looks obviously fashioned by the human hand, then it is best to leave it undisturbed and contact the relevant government authority (see internet).
3. Certain types of stone were highly prized for their tool-making properties. Because of this they were carried or traded or distributed over a wide area. An example of this is Mount William greenstone or 'diabase' that was mined from an Indigenous quarry near Lancefield, Victoria. Implements fashioned from this stone have been found as far away as South Australia and central New South Wales.

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