

Unit 1 - The Human Landscape

Mothy Mobile

Setting the scene

Each year Aboriginal people gathered in the mountains close to the National Capital to feast on bogong moths. During the collection of moths, important ceremonies were held, art was painted in rock shelters and goods traded.

Bogong moths were regarded as an essential food item for Aboriginal people, a rich source of fat and protein.

Millions of bogong moths would migrate to the mountains in summer to escape the extreme heat and lack of food in the lowlands. The moths sheltered in crevices and caves and were easily collected with sticks and sheets of bark. Once collected, they would be roasted on a fire and eaten. Sometimes the roasted moths would be ground into a paste and made into cakes to enjoy later. It is said that they taste a bit like peanut butter.

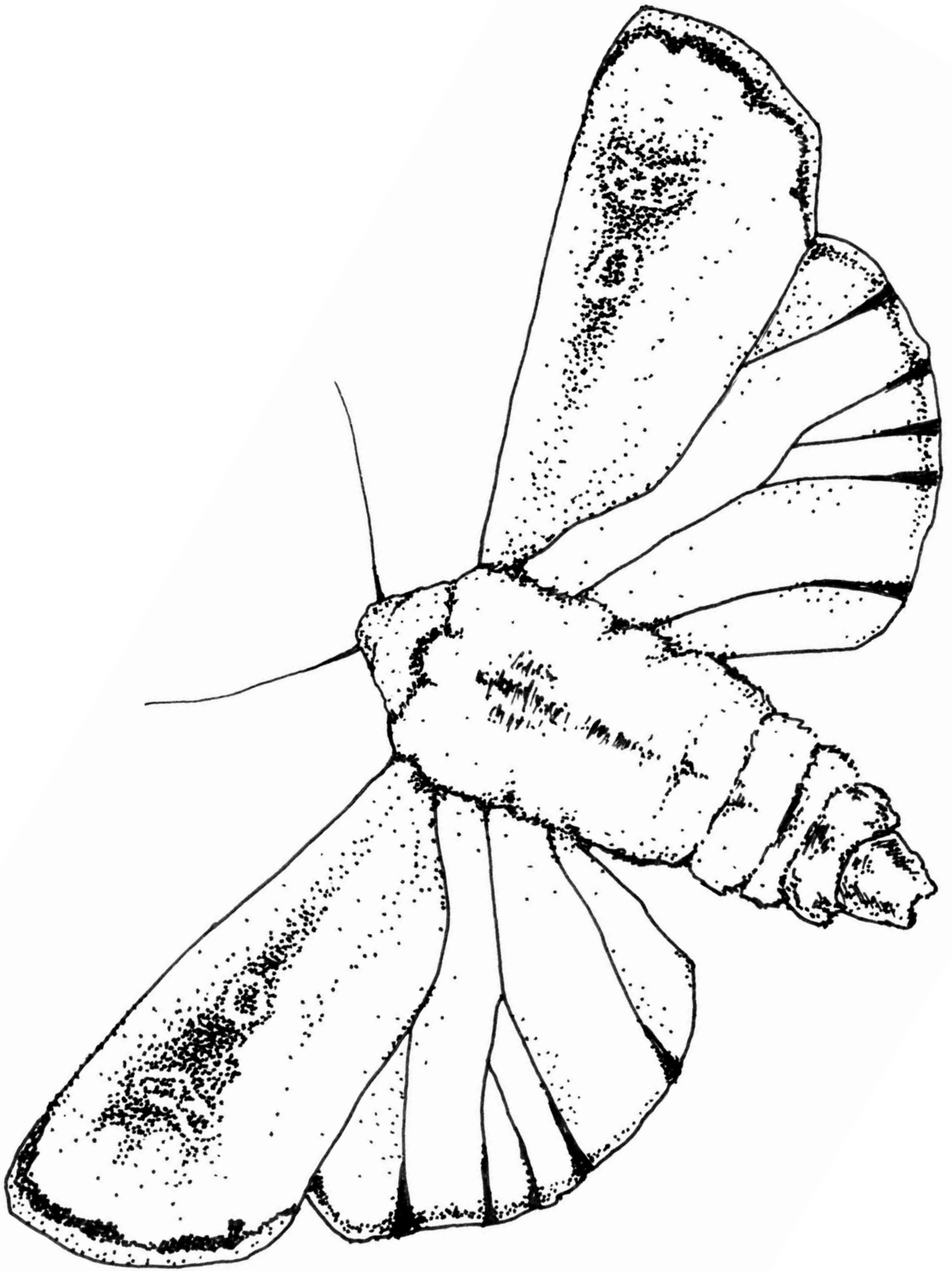
Design your own mothy mobile

- Draw a big beautiful moth on a piece of paper or cardboard and cut it out using a pair of scissors. Be careful.
- Decorate both sides.
- Make as many moths as you can.
- Draw a bubble shape on a piece of cardboard and write words about the bogong moth inside the bubble.
- Don't forget to write the words on both sides of the bubble.
- Carefully punch a hole through the moths and the bubbles. Put the hole near the edge of your work.
- Thread string through the hole and secure with a knot or tape.
- Tie the loose end of the string to each end of a wooden skewer and secure with tape.
- Add more string and more skewers to create a mobile that best displays all your hard work.

Want to know more?

During the 2000 Sydney Olympics the annual migration of the bogong moth was disturbed due to large amounts of light coming from the Olympic Stadium.

Instead of migrating to the Great Dividing Range, millions of moths landed in the stadium each night.



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Lovely Limestone

Setting the scene

It is 1820 and you are an explorer looking for good land to build your farm on. There is water nearby and plenty of timber to build fences, but you need to find limestone in the soil so you can make cement for the chimney and walls of your future house.

Amongst your supplies you are carrying acid to identify limestone. When the acid comes into contact with the limestone it gently fizzes.

You stop to test for limestone.

There are two glass jars: one contains acid and one contains water.

Carefully place your limestone samples in each jar and record what happens.

Write your explorer name.

After three minutes the limestone sample in jar A has done what?

After three minutes the limestone sample in jar B has done what?

Which jar contains the acid?

Write your report, stating the suitability of the site you have tested for colonisation.

Want to know more?

Explorers did discover limestone in the rocks and soil in the area now known as Canberra. Before the city of Canberra was built, the area was known as the “Limestone Plains”.

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Tool Time

Setting the scene

The first European settlers to the Canberra region were mostly farmers who established sheep and cattle stations. Farm stations had to be as self-sufficient as possible due to the large distances required to travel to purchase supplies. To maintain their properties, farm labourers used a variety of equipment and had to adapt to harsh environmental conditions. Equipment was often repaired to extend the life of the particular tool and great care was taken to maintain it.

Study the photo provided of an historic tool used during the settlement of the Canberra region.

Answer the following questions:

What is the name of this tool? *(If you don't know the name, then make one up.)*

What do you think this tool was used for?

Why was this a valuable tool to have at a homestead?

What is your tool made of and why were these materials used?

Are there similar tools used in today's society?

What is the difference between your historical tool and a similar tool used today?



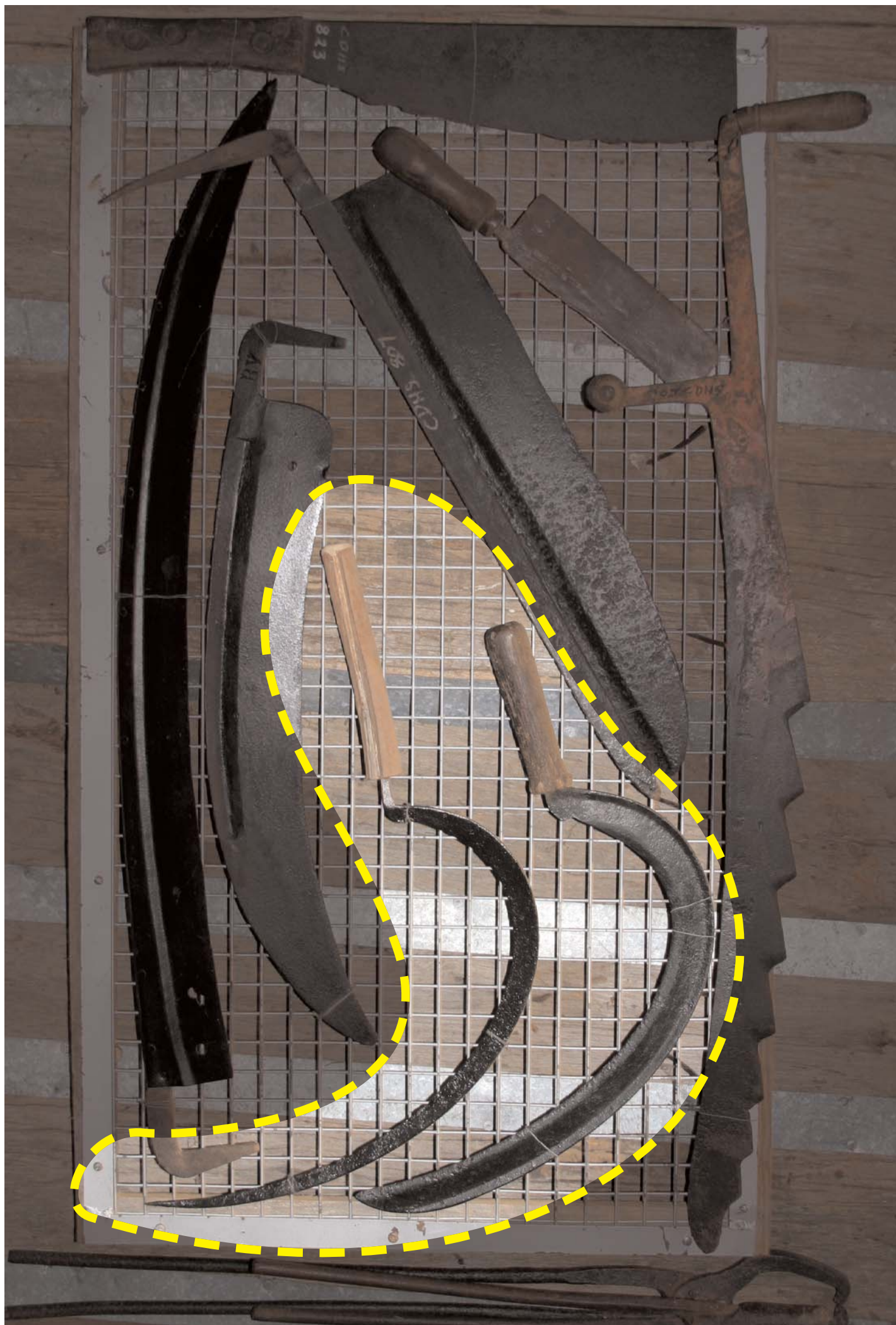


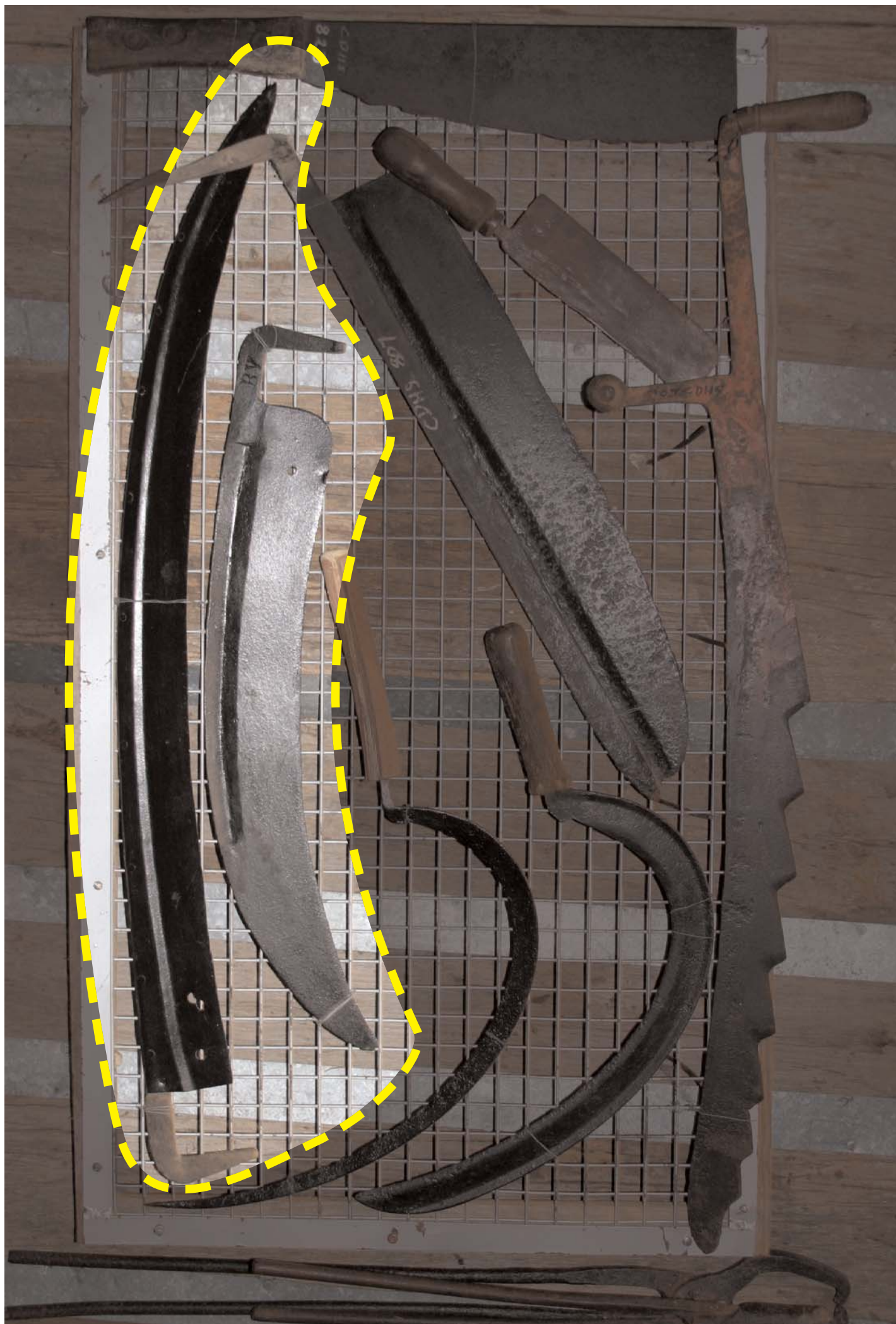










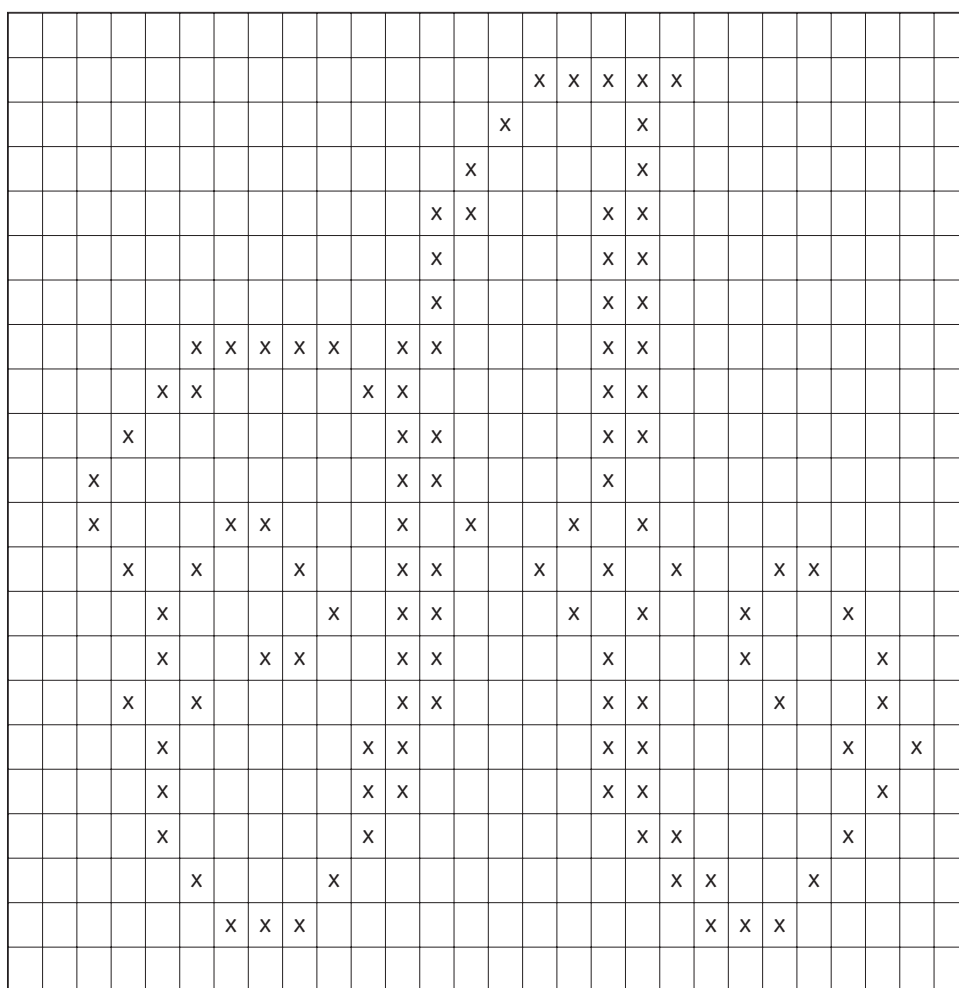


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A Stitch in Time

Setting the scene

A sampler is a decorative piece of needlework. Stitching samplers was typical school and home work for girls in the 1880s, when all clothing and household linen had to be stitched and decorated by hand. A sampler was evidence of a girl's skill with a needle. The most common sampler stitch was cross-stitch and often alphabets and numbers were neatly stitched above the girl's name, along with the completion date of the sampler.



The letter 'A'

why?
who?
how?
what?
why?
who?
how?
what?
where?

ny?
who?
now?
what?
why?
where?
who?
how?
what?
where?

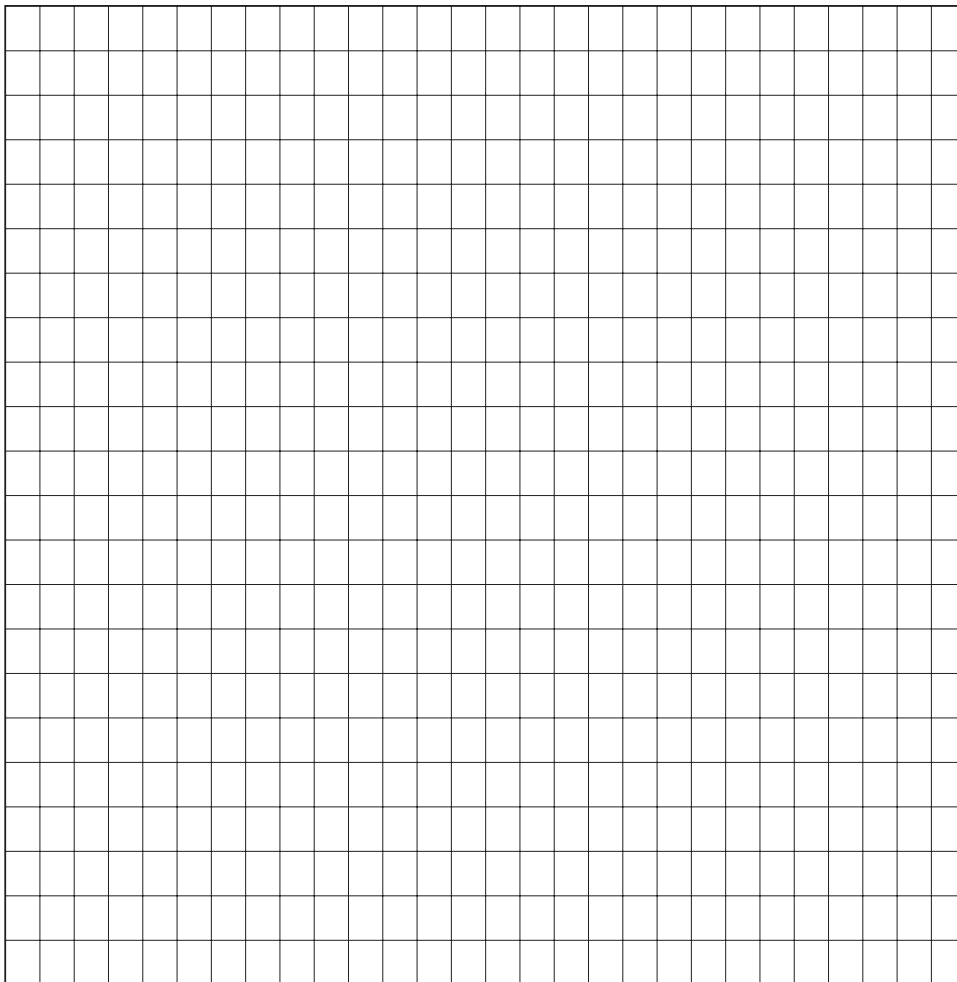


To complete this activity you will need the following materials:

- calico fabric (30cm x 30cm)
- masking tape
- tapestry needle (size 22)
- scissors
- lead pencil
- one skein of stranded cotton

Create your own sampler design using cross-stitch

Design your own initials by colouring each square on the grid.





CROSS-STITCH SAMPLER

Rectangular sampler worked in cross-stitch with green, black, pink and red thread. The design features a Georgian house, floral patterns and multi-diamond border. The cross-stitched inscription reads 'Tell me dear shepherd let me know where does thy sweetest pasture grow'. 'Catherine Toms finished this work September 26 1867'.