Western Australian cultural organization FORM has released the One Road: Canning Stock Route Project app for iPhone, iPad and web. The user friendly app, which has broad ranging learning outcomes in the Arts, History and English, will enable students from the age of twelve and upwards to actively engage with and explore Aboriginal art and cultural content via digital media.

The app’s release will provide teachers and students with ongoing access to the wealth of artistic, historical, and cultural content gathered through Ngurra Kuju Walyja - the Canning Stock Route Project (CSR Project). The project was met with critical acclaim in its Yiwarra Kuju exhibition and the internationally award-winning[1] One Road multimedia display. Both the exhibition and the One Road display received an overwhelmingly positive response from school children and educators in Canberra, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane. By tapping into the unique possibilities of touch interface mobile technology, One Road extends opportunities for learning beyond the formal environment of the classroom.

One Road is a rich interactive experience as it transports students to the remote deserts of Western Australia through personal mobile devices. Using Alfred Canning’s hand-drawn 1910 map as its interface, users are able to fly over the landscape and descend at nodes along the route in a discovery of the remarkable story of the world’s longest and reputedly most dangerous stock route.

Embedded within the landscape are hundreds images and explanations of Aboriginal artworks, short films and audio recordings, photographs, paintings, and 3D animations. These interactive components include stories from the Dreaming, traditional hunting techniques, stories of life on and around the stock route from the early 1900’s to the present day, as well as Aboriginal language lessons, well and water quality information, desert first-aid and a range of other services information for travellers.

One Road has strong relevance to new Australian secondary curriculum in many areas. These include the Arts and English, with the detailed description and explanation of over 100 Aboriginal artworks and the techniques used in their creation, and the emphasis on the way textual and visual representations are influenced by values and beliefs. It is highly suited to the Australian History curriculum with its focus on rights and freedoms, and the making of a modern nation and the place of Aboriginal people within it. Of course, the app also holds significant value for remote Indigenous students in terms of its unique cultural content, as well as providing a wealth of material for the cross-curriculum priority, ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures’.

The app is available for iOS devices (iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch) by searching for ‘One Road’ in the App Store. There is also a web version of the App available at oneroad.canningstockrouteproject.com.

App suitability: Students in Years 7 to 12 / Education resource available
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Image above: The story of Minyipuru in One Road, Canning Stock Route Project. Photograph courtesy of FORM.

Home page image: Papunya Tula artist Patrick Tjungurrayi names the waterholes that became wells in his painting Canning Stock Route Country. Artist Patrick Olodoodi (Alatuti) Tjungurrayi 2007. Photograph by Tim Acker; courtesy of FORM.

[1] The One Road multimedia interactive took out a silver award for interactive interpretive display in the 2011 international Muse Awards (American Association of Museums).