

You Can't Throw a

BOOMERANG

Away

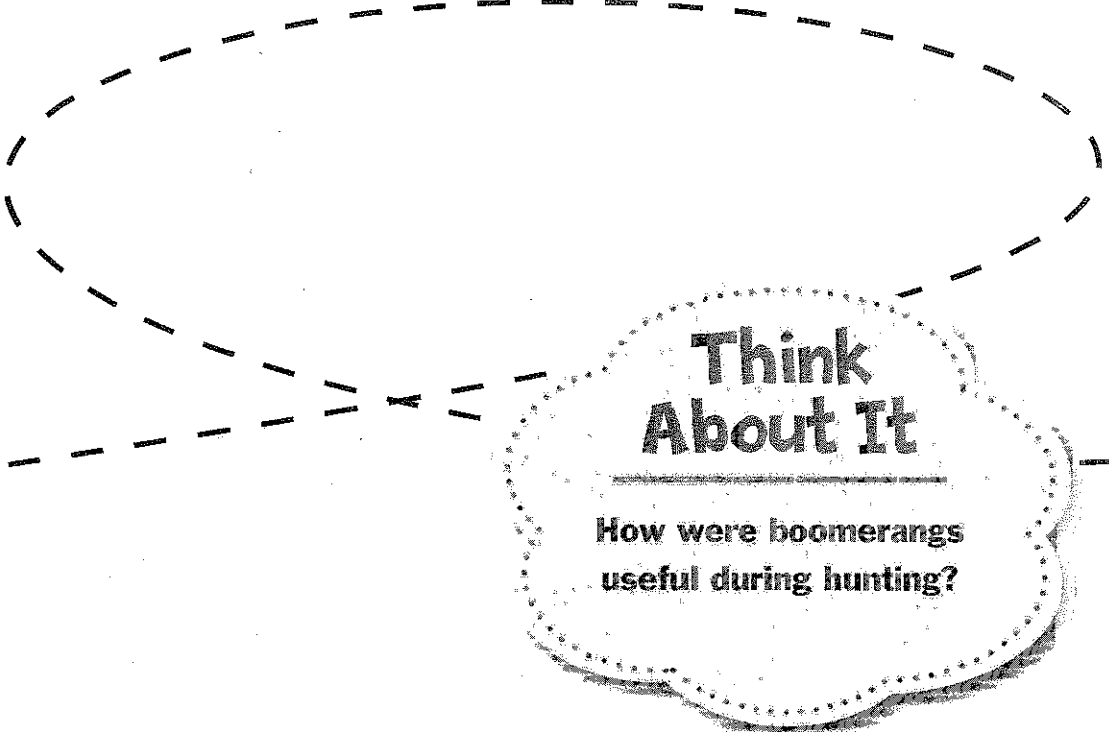
by Laura E. Crockett

Set Your Purpose

What keeps coming back no matter how often you throw it away? Read this article to find out.

Want to play catch by yourself? You can—with a boomerang! A boomerang is a **weapon** from Australia. Long ago, it was used for hunting. Today, it is used for fun. Try throwing it as hard as you can. If you've done it right, the boomerang circles around and **returns** to you.





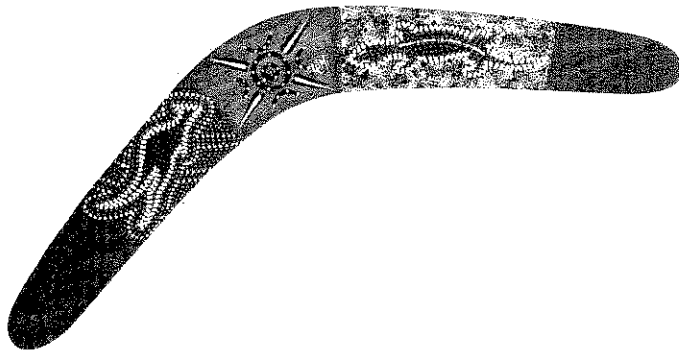
Think About It

How were boomerangs
useful during hunting?

The secret is in its shape. Most boomerangs have an **elbow**. That gives it a bend in the middle and two “wings.” They work just like airplane wings.

As a boomerang flies through the air, its wings spin. Each wing turns toward the other wing. That makes it fly in a circle. Throwing a boomerang can be tricky. Hold it close to your body, just above the

shoulder. Hold the boomerang straight up and down. Now snap your wrist and throw! With practice, you can **release** it and make it come back to exactly the same spot.



Date _____

N

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

1. The main idea of this article is

- (A) how airplanes fly.
- (B) how to make a boomerang.
- (C) boomerangs are fun to fly.
- (D) boomerangs have elbows.

2. Which sentence is an important detail about the boomerang?

- (A) It has an elbow and wings.
- (B) Hold it above your shoulder.
- (C) Use it only for hunting.
- (D) It looks just like an airplane.

3. Long ago, boomerangs were used

- (A) for playing games.
- (B) instead of airplanes.
- (C) for hunting.
- (D) to understand how airplanes fly.

4. Boomerangs were probably made to come back so they would

- (A) be hard to throw.
- (B) be more fun.
- (C) fly like airplanes.
- (D) not get lost.

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

1. Long ago, a boomerang was used as a weapon.

- (A) tool for hunting
- (B) toy
- (C) pot for cooking
- (D) way of learning

2. If you throw it right, it should return to you.

- (A) fly away
- (B) come back
- (C) talk back
- (D) give joy

3. The elbow of the boomerang forms two wings.

- (A) path
- (B) bottom of the wing
- (C) top of the wing
- (D) bend in the middle

4. Hold it straight up and down and then release it.

- (A) drop
- (B) let go
- (C) stand on
- (D) bend

Name _____ Date _____






Word Work

The letters **pl** stand for the beginning sounds in plate.

The letters **fl** stand for the beginning sounds in flag.

The letters **cl** stand for the beginning sounds in cloud.

Say each picture name. Complete the word by writing the letters that stand for the beginning sound.

1.  _____ ock
2.  _____ ug
3.  _____ ower
4.  _____ ant
5.  _____ am

Read the words below. Write the word that completes each sentence.

play fly flat climb plane

6. Boomerangs are fun to _____ with.
7. They have wings like a _____.
8. The top of the wing is curved and the bottom is _____.
9. I like to _____ a hill and then throw it.
10. Then it can _____ high off the ground!

Write Now

In the article "You Can't Throw a Boomerang Away," you read about an interesting and unusual thing to play with. If you could invent a new, unusual toy, what would it be? What would you call it? How would it work? What's interesting about it?

- Plan to write a description of a new toy. Use a web like the one shown to organize your ideas.
- Write a description of your toy. Use your web to help you. Draw your toy.

