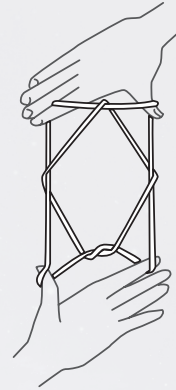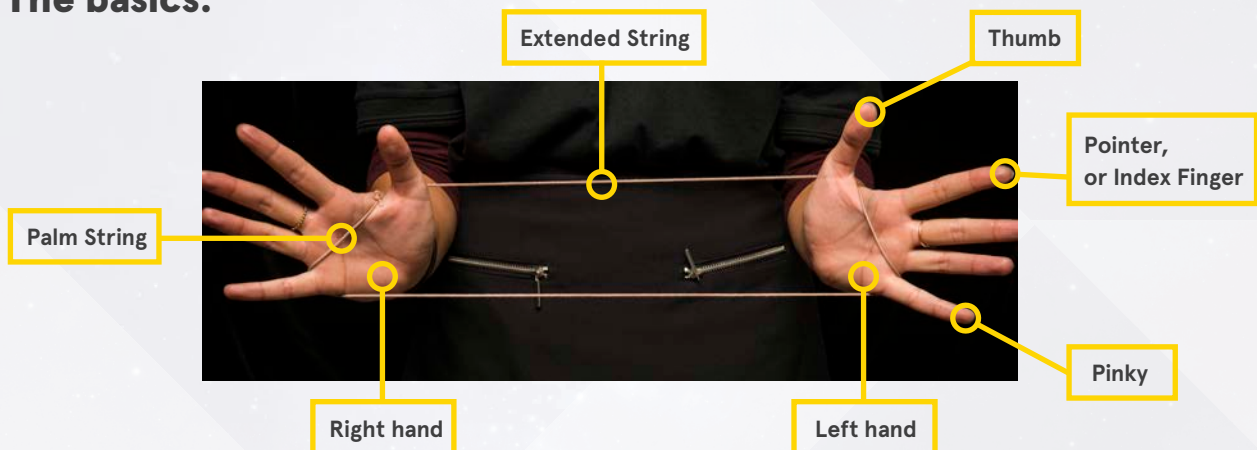# kamai (string games)

rlangga (billabong) Ngalakgan language
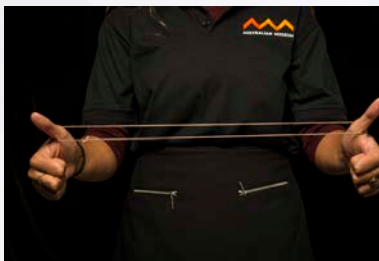## from Warndarrang Country, Northern Territory

Many Aboriginal groups traditionally made patterns or designs on the hands with a loop of string.`kamai' was among the names applied to string figures in north Queensland, `meeroo-meeroo' in one area of Western Australia and `wame' is the word used for string figures in the Torres Strait.
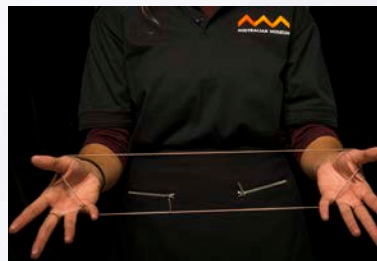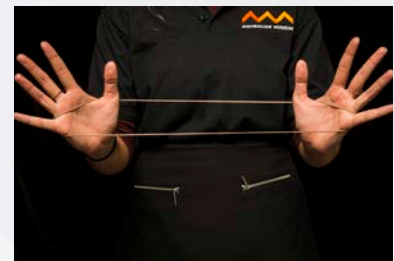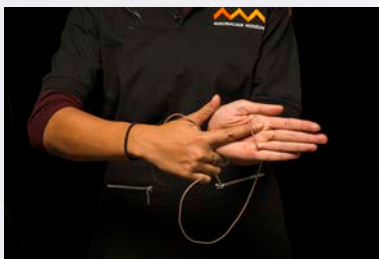
The basics:

Extended String

Thumb

Pointer, or Index Finger

Palm String

Right hand

Left hand

Pinky

Lets play!

Step 1:
Hook thumbs into string loop – extend

Step 2:
Hook pinky fingers into string loop
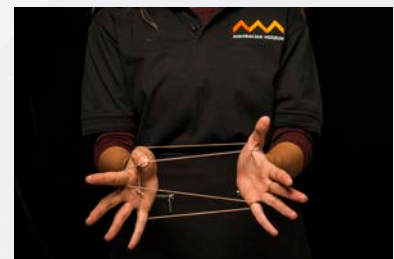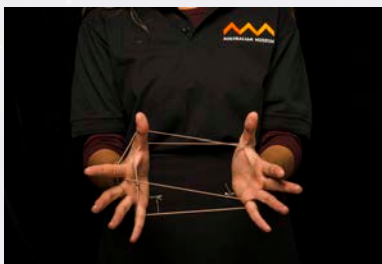

Step 3:
Extend

Step 4:
Slide your right pointer finger under left palm string
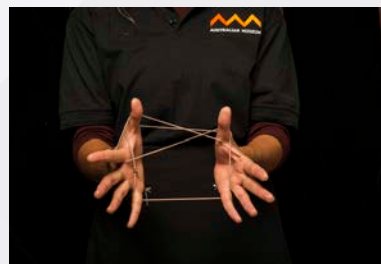

Step 5:
Extend

Step 6:
Hook right thumb under near pointer finger string

Step 7:
Result of step 6

Step 8:
Hook left thumb under near left pinky string

Step 9:
Result of step 8

Step 10:
Bend your left pointer finger and slide it under your left inner thumb string

Step 11:
Result of step 10

Step 12:
Use your mouth to grab the thumb string closest to you

Step 13:
Then lift string over your thumbs

Step 14:
Strings are now over your thumbs

Step 15:
Release the pinkies

Step 16:
Extend string

Step 17:
Turn both hands so that the back of your right hand faces the ceiling and back of the left hand faces the floor

Step 18:
Twist your hand so your right fingers are facing to the left and your left fingers are facing the to the right.

Congratulations! You have a billabong or waterhole!