

Bai – Overcoming adversity

Wareed Tapau (Bai) Kabe is an artist from Townsville in Queensland. Her family comes from Mer (Murray) Island in the Torres Strait.



Bai uses the natural environment of the Great Barrier Reef as inspiration for her colourful art. She was born with a disability caused by the morning sickness drug called Thalidomide, which was used to treat morning sickness in the late 1950s and early 1960s. She is a successful artist and illustrator.

1 Everyone has different skills and interests.

List five things that you are really good at and five things you don't do very well. List the everyday things that are difficult for Bai to do because of her disability.

I'm good at...	I'm not good at...	Things that are difficult for Bai to do.

2 Here is a list of things that Bai does during the day.
Circle the things that you do too.

- paint
- swim
- snorkel
- rake the lawn
- make lunch
- fish
- hang out the washing
- laugh
- draw
- watch football
- talk to friends
- get dressed
- watch television

3 When she was growing up, Bai was often bullied because of her appearance.
What were some of her strategies for coping with this?

4 Bai doesn't let her disability stop her from enjoying her life.
What does she love about painting?

5 What do you find inspirational about Bai?
