



# **NAiDOC** Week 2024

Information and activity booklet

# Wiradjuri Country



I acknowledge and respect the Wiradjuri People, the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where we work and live. I celebrate their unique cultural, spiritual, and emotional relationship to Country, and acknowledge the significance of other First Nations cultures in Australia. It is a privilege to learn with and from our First Nations People.

# Wiradjuri Country

There were many thousands of people who spoke the Wiradjuri language, making it the largest nation in NSW. The Wiradjuri people occupied a large part of central NSW. The southern border was the Murray River from Albury upstream towards Tumbarumba area. From here the border went north along the edges of the mountains, past Tumut and Gundagai to Lithgow. The territory continued up to Dubbo, then west across the plains to the Willandra creek near Mossgiel. The Booligal swamps are near the western border and down to Hay. From Hay the territory extended across the Riverina plains passing the Jerilderie area to Albury.

Wiradjuri lands were known as the land of three rivers;

- Murrumbidgee (Known by its traditional Wiradjuri name)
- Gulari (Lachlan)
- Womboy (Macquarie)



Note: The Murrumbidgee is the only river to still be known as its Aboriginal name

The exact border is not known and some of the territories overlapped with neighbouring groups. Places like Lake Urana were probably a shared resource as was the Murray River.

The territory covers hills in the east, river floodplains, grasslands and mallee country in the west. These environments provided all the materials necessary for survival as hunters and gatherers. On the floodplains there were rivers, creeks, billabongs, swamps and lakes which contained many fish, yabbies, mussels, crayfish and tortoises. The waterways were home to many wetlands birds, such as teal, wood duck, ibis and water fowl.

Following the winter floods there was plenty of food for a long time.

Away from the rivers the land was flat with few trees in the western area. The plains had many kangaroos and emus. When it rained the native grasses grew. Seeds of these grasses provided a reliable source of food. The roots of some plants provided good food.

Each group had it's own area to live. The group of between 10 to 50 people would collect everything that they needed from the environment. They would move to a new camp when the food supply was getting low. As the seasons changed and animals hibernated or moved on, and plants became dormant, the group may have found it necessary to move to another site in their area.



# NAIDOC Week

l u d n a i d o c m a a  
x b w o n e w s k a g k  
k i n d i g e n o u s i  
m d q j i h d g r s m t  
i n n r j c o u n t r y  
s s a m e z u w k r y g  
l t o g e t h e r a c e  
a b o r i g i n a l i b  
n p c d t z f b t i k o  
d n a t i o n y c a v u  
e i x e q u a l i t y i  
r b k n h i s t o r y j

Aboriginal

indigenous

Australia

Islander

equality

same

one

together

nation

history

NAIDOC

country



# ABORIGINAL LIFE

Indigenous people lived a peaceful life in Australia for more than 65,000 years before the arrival of European settlers in 1788.

Before European settlement, Aboriginal people led a nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

Traditional Aboriginal groups had a deep knowledge of their land, sources of water and the affects of the seasons on plant foods and animals they hunted.

The family structures, rituals and ceremonies, art, painting, dance, eating and hunting habits were guided by their strong spiritual beliefs and connection with the land.



*Use the information and write or draw one fact about the topic.*

Hunting	Land
Seasons	European settlement

# How the sun was made

This is *a* story which talks about dinawan (the emu) and gambal (the bush turkey). It is *a* Wiradjuri story that *comes* from the plains of New South Wales.

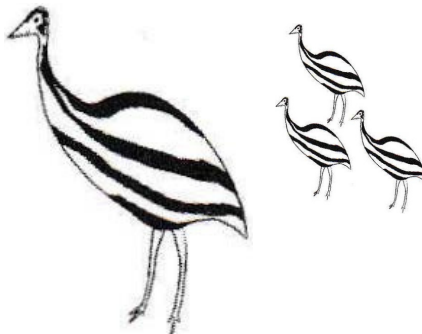


Back in the balandha (the beginning) there *was* no sun,  
only the moon and stars.

This *was* before there *were* people on earth,  
only birds and other animals, which *were* many sizes larger than they *are* today.  
*The* stars were the fires of the sky people.

A long time *ago* dinawan, the emu, and gambal, the turkey,  
*were* on *a* large plain near the river.

They *were* arguing and fighting *because* dinawan *was* jealous that gambal the bush turkey could  
and gambal *was* jealous that dinawan had so many babies.



Dinawan  
the emu with his  
babies.



One day gambal *got so angry* that she rushed to the *nest of* dinawan and grabbed *one of* the huge eggs and threw it with all her might into the sky.

Up, up and up it went until it smashed open *on a* heap *of* firewood,  
which had been gathered by the sky people.

The firewood burst into flame *as* the yellow yolk  
from dinawan's *egg* spilled all over it.

The flame lit up the world below  
and the animals *on* Earth were dazzled by the brightness.

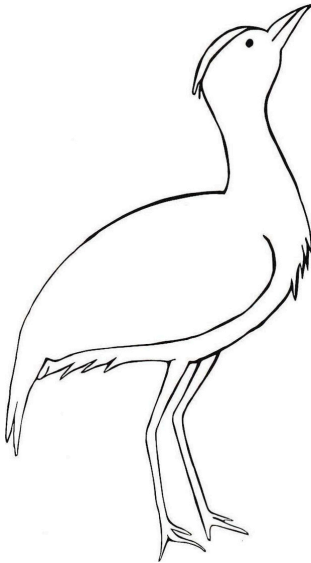
The sky people could see all the colours *of* the Earth,  
the reds, blues and yellows *of* the birds and  
flowers, and they could feel the warmth *of*  
the beautiful fire.

The sky people saw how bright and beautiful the Earth looked  
when lit up by this blaze.

They thought it would be *a good* thing *to* make *a* fire *every* night.

All night *they collected* wood *and* heaped *it into* a big pile.

When the heap was almost big *enough*  
they would send *out* the morning star *to* warn those *on* Earth  
that the fire would soon be lit.



Gamba I the bush  
turkey who got *very*  
angry.





But the sky people found that the morning star did not wake the animals on Earth.  
They thought that there must be some noise made at dawn *to* wake the sleepers  
and *tell* them that day was coming.

But for a long time they couldn't find anyone suitable.

At last *one* evening they heard the sound of something in the distance.  
At first it was very faint

*googoor gaga*

but as they *got* closer and closer it *got* louder and louder

*GOO GOOR GAGA GOOGOOR GAGA*

'That's the noise *we* want' they said.

As they *got* closer they saw that it was gugubarra the kookaburra.

They asked gugubarra would he laugh his loudest  
*to* wake up all the sleepers *every* morning before the fire was lit.

'But what's in it for me?' said gugubarra.

'Did you like anything about the new fire?' asked the sky people.



Gugubarra the  
kookaburra



'I *loved* seeing the difference between day and night,  
and I like seeing the reds, greens, blues and yellows *of* the birds and the flowers.

But *most of* all I *loved* warming my wings' said gugubarra.

'If you agree *to* laugh *every* morning then we will agree *to* light the fire  
at the beginning *of everyday*' said the sky people.

'But won't I *get* in trouble with the animals here *on* Earth?' said gugubarra.

'We will tell them *to* treat you like a brother and not *to* harm you or make fun *of* you *because of* your  
important job' said the sky people.

So gugubarra agreed *to* laugh his loudest at the dawn *of every* day,  
and he has done *so ever* since with

# GOO GOOR GAGA GOO GOOR GAGA

Wiradjuri people know *to* treat the gugubarra like a brother  
*because if ever* a time comes when gugubarra stops laughing before the sun rises,  
darkness will *come* again.



# Find a word

Can you find all the words in the puzzle?

wilay

kangaroo

gugaa

dinawan

boomerang

possum

quandong

bundi

bargan

wamar

gugubarra

w	i	l	a	y	u	l	g	z	z
f	y	z	g	d	b	f	u	d	r
k	e	n	u	q	o	b	g	i	q
a	g	p	g	u	o	u	a	n	x
n	b	o	u	a	m	n	a	a	w
g	a	s	b	n	e	d	e	w	a
a	r	s	a	d	r	i	s	a	m
r	g	u	r	o	a	j	c	n	a
o	a	m	r	n	n	y	l	l	r
o	n	a	a	g	g	y	n	m	v





# The Australian Aboriginal Flag



**Black** - represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.

**Yellow disk** - represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.

**Red** - represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relation to the land.

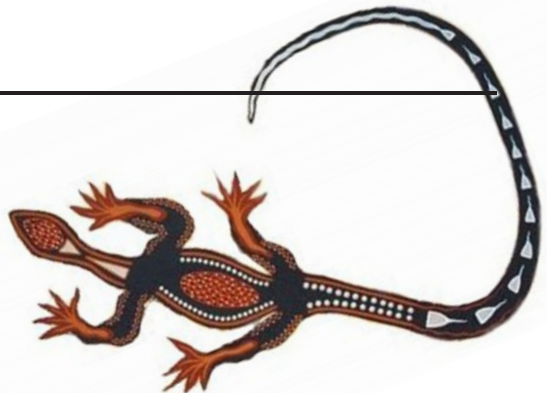
**What do you like about the flag?**

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# The Torres Strait Islander Flag



**Green** - symbolises the land.

**White** - symbolises peace.

**Blue** - represents the waters of the Torres Strait.

**White Star** - represents the five major island groups.

**Black** - signifies the Torres Strait Islanders themselves.

**White Dhari** - (dancer's headress) symbolises the Torres Strait Islander People

## What do you like about the flag?

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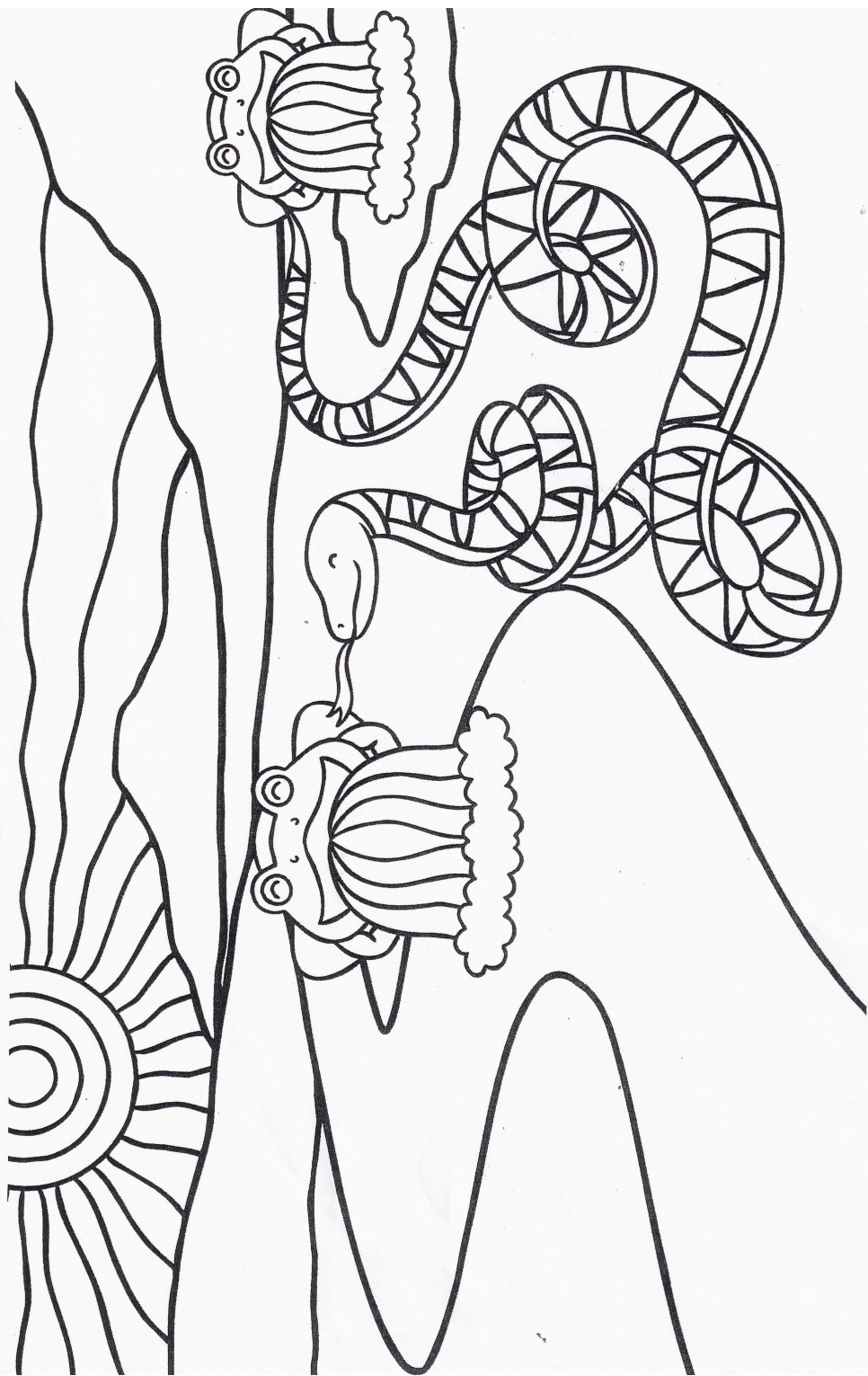




Name one of these Aboriginal Super Hero's

Write a small story about them











‘Yindyamarra’