



THE DREAMING

THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE ILLAWARRA

The Wodi Wodi are the Aboriginal custodians of the Illawarra. They spoke a version of the Dharawal language.

Traditional stories tell how the Wodi Wodi people arrived at the mouth of Lake Illawarra in canoes. They brought the Dharawal (Cabbage Tree Palm) with them from the north. They are named after this sacred tree.

Totems of the Illawarra include the Australian Magpie, Superb Lyrebird, Australian Pelican, Satin Bowerbird, hawk, kingfisher, Pacific Black Duck, red-bellied black snake and goanna. Aboriginal people do not eat their personal totem plant or animal. Totems are a significant symbol of Aboriginal people's link to the land. They remind people that all animals are our sisters, brothers, and cousins and most importantly our teachers and our friends.

Many animals and birds feature in local traditional stories.

Your task: What are the main points from the text above? On your first slide, record the important facts in your own words.



THE DREAMINGS



These are stories that explain the creation of landforms, or why animals have certain features. The whale is the overall totem of the Dharawal people. An important story involving the whale tells the story of the creation of the Windang Island.

Your task: Listen to the story of Gang Man Gang and answer the following questions.

- 1. What things does this dreaming explain?**
 - 2. Who were the main characters in the story?**
 - 3. What happened in the story? List at least 5 events in the order that they happened.**
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GUDGAD THE FROG

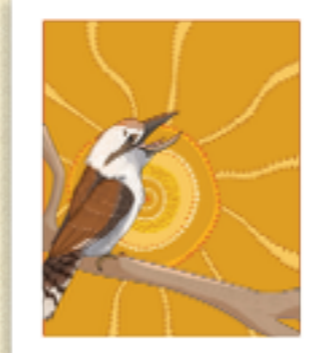
This Dharawal story is similar to a well known Dreamtime story called Tiddalick.



This is a story about a greedy leader from the frog clan who wanted to be the leader of the Dharawal people.

This is a story about a greedy man from the frog clan who ...

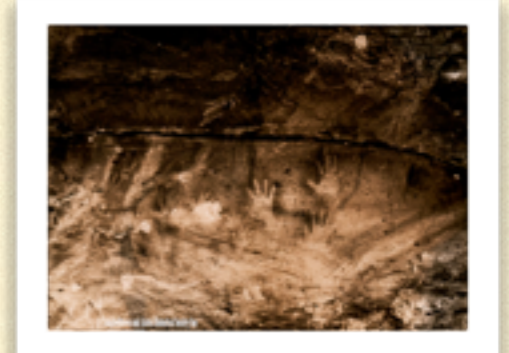
This is a story about a greedy man from the frog clan who ...



This is a story about the leader of the kookaburra clan who made Gudgad laugh.

This is a story about the leader of the kookaburra clan who...

This is a story about the leader of the kookaburra clan who...



This is a story about the Dharawal clans who were suffering in the drought.

This is a story about the Dharawal clans who ...

This is a story about the Dharawal clans who ...

What does this Dreaming story explain?

WHY ARE DREAMING STORIES IMPORTANT?

Some people think that dreaming stories are the same as fairy stories, but that's not true. Instead, dreaming stories have been used for thousands of years as a way of teaching important knowledge to the members of the Aboriginal clans. Each story has different types of knowledge.

1. **Secrets** - these are only shared between the story teller and important people in the clan.
2. **Laws to be followed** - these are discussed after the story has been told.
3. **Lessons** - these are shared with everyone and show how to live in peace with each other and the land.

What do you think are the lessons from the Dharawal stories we have read so far?

STORY

- Gang Man Gang
- Gudgad the Frog

LESSONS

COUNTRY

- “Land cannot be given or taken away. We belong to the land.” Aboriginal people feel connected to the earth, the sea and the sky. This relationship is known as “country.”
- When someone who isn’t part of the group comes onto Dharawal land, they can be welcomed. This is called “Welcome to Country”. The welcome emphasises the importance of sharing the land. Every week in assembly, the prefects acknowledge country. Acknowledgement of country reminds us that the land our school is built on is traditional Dharawal land.
- Today, Aboriginal people express their connection to country through songs, dances, storytelling, painting and engraving. There is also a Dharawal version of the National Anthem.

Your task: Use the information to make your own “Did You Know?” poster about Country.
