



Geography

Aboriginal Dreaming Stories



For Junior Primary

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Preview

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Background information for the student activity (page 4):

Indigenous Australians believe that in the beginning, before creation, the land was bare and dark. There were no natural features such as: mountains, rivers, seas, skies or animals. Then, one day, spirits created the natural features. They moved over the land and created rocks, plants, animals and waterways. These spirits then turned into parts of the natural features that we see today.

It is because indigenous Australians believe that every plant, every animal and every rock is a spirit, that they see natural features as special and know that they should be looked after. Indigenous Australians tell stories (known as the Dreaming) about how natural features were made.

Read the story Baime The Creator to your students.

Baime The Creator (adapted by Lindsay Marsh)

When the world was young and dark and flat, a Creator Spirit named Baime came down to Earth. When he looked around, he saw nothing. He decided then and there to make Earth a beautiful place to live.

He made some mountains and sand and coastlines. When this was finished he created three different kinds of plants that would live in the different areas he had made. He made ferns and trees to live in the mountains; shrubs and flowers for the sandy deserts where it was hot and dry and special grasses especially suited to the coastline.

He took a step back, and thought about what these special plants in their special places would need. Water. He gave the mountains waterfalls; he gave the sandy deserts waterholes and the coastlines he gave oceans and gentle seas.

When he had finished all of this, he added a soothing breeze to caress the plants he had made.

Baime was pleased with Earth now. He decided to return to the sky, as he did, he stepped up on the peak of Mount Yengo. When he stepped on its summit, he flattened it, and it still remains flat at the top today.



Activity

Baiame The Creator

After listening to your teacher tell the Dreaming story Baiame The Creator, complete this activity sheet.

1. Who is Baiame?



2. List six things that Baiame created.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

3. Draw what you think Mt. Yengo might look like.

Background information for the student activity (page 6):

The Bangarang Dreaming story explains how the River Murray was created. The River Murray is a **natural** feature which runs through three Australian states (New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia). It is Australia's longest river at 2,508 kilometres.

Read the story Bangarang to your students.

Bangarang

(adapted by Lindsay Marsh)

One day an old woman was travelling with her dingoes across the Australian landscape looking for grubs and berries. She covered a great distance. As she walked, she dragged her digging stick behind her and this carved a long track in the ground.



The noise of the woman's stick dragging along the earth woke a giant, colourful snake, which was sleeping in the nearby mountains. The snake became very annoyed that it had been woken from its lovely sleep. To let off some steam and show its anger, it began moving across the land, thrashing aggressively as it went.

The snake's thrashing created deeper marks in the earth in the same places that the old woman had dragged her stick. This made a wide and deep path.

After the snake moved through the landscape, a huge storm came and filled the path with water. This water path became known as the River Murray.

After listening to your teacher tell the Dreaming story Bangarang, complete this activity sheet.

1. Fill in the missing word.

The Bangarang Dreaming story tells how the River _____ was created.



2. Answer the questions about the story.

Question	Answer
Who are the dingoes walking with?	
What does the old woman carry?	
What did the woman wake up?	
How did the snake feel about being woken up?	
The digging stick created a long track in the ground. What made these marks deeper?	
How did the path fill up with water?	

3. Draw a scene from the story Bangarang. Write a sentence to match your drawing.



Background information for the student activity (page 8):

Tnorala (Gosses Bluff) is a place in the Northern Territory. If you visit this place you will see a big mountain range with a flat middle. Dreaming stories told by the Western Arrernte Aboriginal people explain how this mountain range appeared.

Read the story Gosses Mountain Range to your students.

Gosses Mountain Range

(adapted by Lindsay Marsh)

Long ago, a group of women took the form of stars and danced a corroboree in the evening sky. One of the women placed her baby in a coolamon as she danced.

The movements of the women dancing caused the baby to tumble in the coolamon to earth.

When the baby hit the ground, it created a huge crash. Rocks around the baby were thrown upwards into the air creating a ringed-shaped mountain range, known as Tnorala or Gosses Bluff.

The coolamon covered the baby who was hidden forever and the baby's mother and father – the Morning and Evening Stars – continue to search for their lost child even now.

If you look up at the sky today, you will see the falling coolamon, it is the arch of stars in the Western constellation Corona Australis – the Southern Crown.

Other Information

Another theory about the creation of Gosses Bluff is that a giant meteorite that formed 142 million years ago struck the Earth forming the ring-shaped mountain range.

Activity

Gosses Bluff

After listening to your teacher tell the Dreaming story Gosses Mountain Range, complete the activities.

1. Use the words to fill in the spaces.

AUSTRALIA MOUNTAINS TERRITORY TNORALA FLAT

The Aboriginal name for Gosses Bluff is

_____ . You can find Gosses

Bluff in the Northern _____ in

_____ . The middle of Gosses Bluff is

_____ . Around the edges of Gosses

Bluff are _____ .



2. Draw Gosses Bluff.

Preview



3. Complete the True or False chart about Gosses Bluff.

In the Dreaming story a baby falls from the sky and creates the flat area in the middle of Gosses Bluff.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
In the Dreaming story, the women dance on Gosses Bluff.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
Gosses Bluff is a constructed feature.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False
Gosses Bluff is a mountain range.	<input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False

Answers

P4

1. Baiame is a creator spirit in indigenous storytelling.
2. 1. mountains/deserts/coastlines 2. grasses 3. ferns/trees 4. water/waterfalls/seas/waterholes 5. shrubs/flowers 6. breeze
3. Students should indicate that Mt. Yengo has a flat summit.

P6

1. The Bangarang Dreaming story tells how the River MURRAY was created.
2. Who are the dingoes walking with?

Answer: The old woman.

What does the old woman carry?

Answer: A digging stick.

What did the woman wake up?

Answer: A giant and colourful snake.

How did the snake feel about being woken up?

Answer: Annoyed.

The digging stick created a long track in the ground. What made these marks deeper?

Answer: The thrashing of the angry snake.

How did the path fill up with water?

Answer: A huge storm arrived.

P8

1. The Aboriginal name for Gosses Bluff is THORALA. You can find Gosses Bluff in the Northern TERRITORY in AUSTRALIA. The middle of Gosses Bluff is FLAT. Around the edges of Gosses Bluff are MOUNTAINS.
3. In the Dreaming story, a baby falls from the sky and creates the flat area in the middle of Gosses Bluff. **True**
In the Dreaming story, the women dance on Gosses Bluff. **False**
Gosses Bluff is a constructed feature. **False**
Gosses Bluff is a mountain range. **True**