

Geography

Aboriginal Dreaming Stories



For Middle Primary



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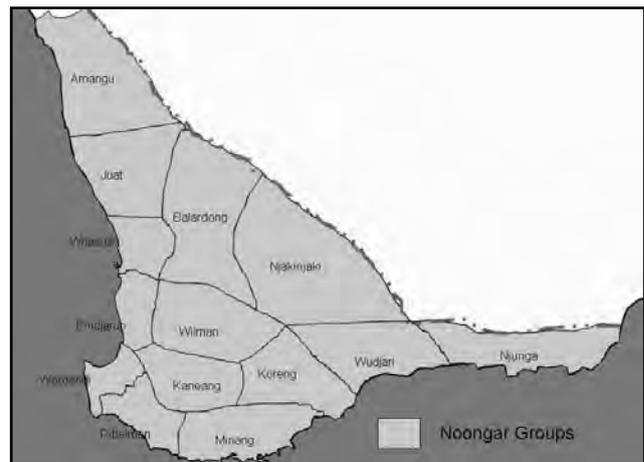
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Indigenous Australians do not divide Australia into states and territories. They divide Australia into language groups. Each language group (tribe) occupies a territory and there are rules about crossing into other tribe's territories. Dreaming stories told by elders often communicated these rules to the younger generation.



Indigenous language groups' boundaries in the southwest of Western Australia

- ❑ **Read the Dreaming Story *Wayambek The Turtle* and complete the activity pages that follow.**

A long time ago, there lived a man named Wayambek who was very stubborn and did not listen to his elders. Every day he did what he wanted to do and did not obey any of the tribal rules. One day, the elders told Wayambek that it was time for him to marry a woman from his tribe, but Wayambek refused to marry the woman who was selected for him. Instead, he grabbed his spear and marched off into the bush to hunt.

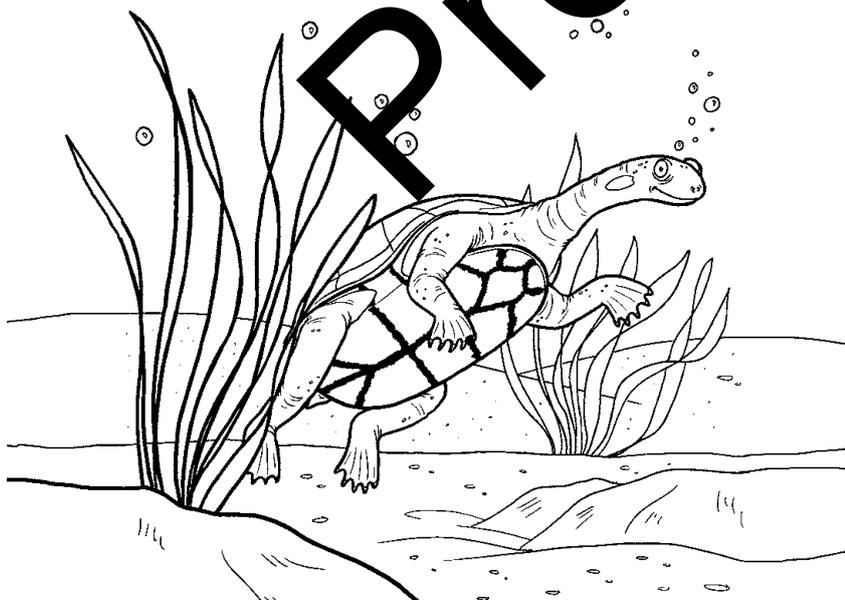


While Wayambek was hunting, he wrongfully entered another tribe's territory - this tribe was known as the Spiny Lizards. He saw a woman from the Spiny Lizards named Ula. He decided that she was the woman who he wanted to marry. Wayambek snatched Ula and took her back to his tribe and territory.

The elders were very cross when they saw Wayambah with Ula, "You must return Ula to her territory immediately," they demanded. But Wayambah did not listen. The elders warned Wayambah that the Spiny Lizards would come to take Ula back. They told Wayambah that they would not support him in this battle against the Spiny Lizards. "If you insist on being so headstrong, you will fight this battle on your own," exclaimed the elders sternly.

Soon enough the Spiny Lizards arrived to take Ula back to her rightful tribe and territory.

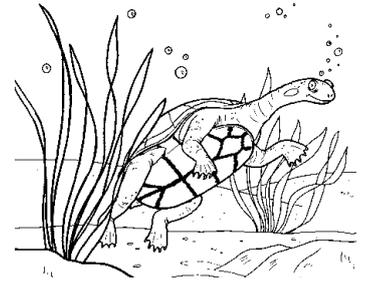
When Wayambah spotted the Spiny Lizards, he rapidly armed himself by wrapping his shields around his front and his back. Once armed, he taunted the Spiny Lizards and they threw a cloud of spears at Wayambah. Fearing for his life, Wayambah jumped into a nearby billabong and was never seen again as a man.



Several days later, a strange creature with a long neck appeared from the billabong into which Wayambah had dove, and showed itself before the tribe. It had a hard shell covering its back and belly. The tribe crowded around the creature and realised that it was Wayambah. He had been transformed into a long-necked turtle.

Complete this activity sheet after reading pages 3 and 4.

1. In your own words explain what a Dreaming story is.



2. Complete the table about the story *Wayambeh The Turtle*.

Question	Answer
What is meant by a 'territory' in the story?	
What is meant by a 'tribe' in the story?	
What are the two territories in the story?	
Who enters a territory without permission?	
Why do you think he does this?	
What do you think he should have done instead?	
What is the punishment in the story for wrongly entering another tribe's territory?	
What do you think the message is in the story?	

3. List four boundaries that you are not allowed to cross.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Complete this activity sheet after reading pages 3 and 4.

- Complete the storyboard based on the Dreaming story *Wayambek The Turtle*.

1	2
3	4
5	6

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Page 5

1. A Dreaming story is told by elders to the younger generation. It passes on beliefs about laws and creation.

2.

Question	Answer
What is meant by a 'territory' in the story?	A territory is a physical place that an Aboriginal group occupies.
What is meant by a 'tribe' in the story?	A tribe is an Aboriginal language group. Members of one tribe occupies the same territory.
What are the two territories in the story?	Spiny Lizard's territory and Wayambeh's tribe's territory.
Who enters a territory without permission?	Wayambeh enters the Spiny Lizard's territory.
Why do you think he does this?	He is stubborn, disobedient and foolish. He is rebelling against the elders.
What do you think he should have done instead?	Listened to his elders.
What is the punishment in the story for wrongly entering another tribe's territory?	He is attacked by the Spiny Lizards and transformed into a turtle.
What do you think the message is in the story?	Do not cross tribal boundaries without permission.

Preview