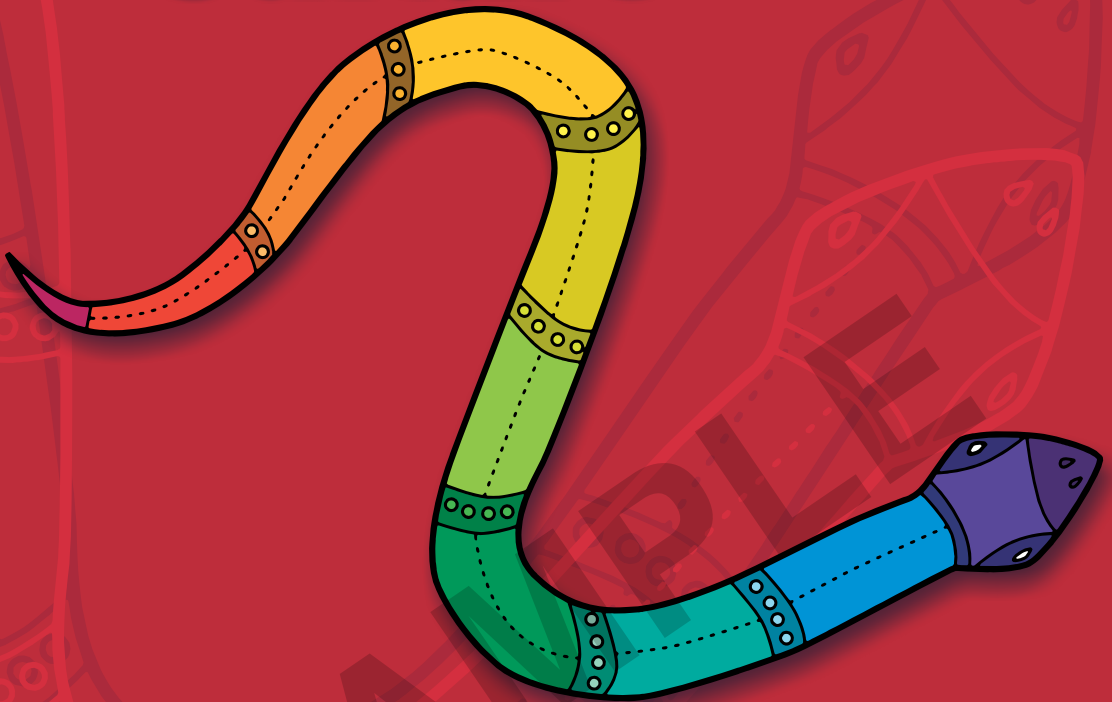


Aboriginal Culture

Mark Tirris



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First published 2020

ISBN 9781925714708

Illustrations and prepress: Dean Maynard

Text/editor and producer: Sharlene Coombs

Publisher: Robert Watts

Series information: **History of the First Australians**

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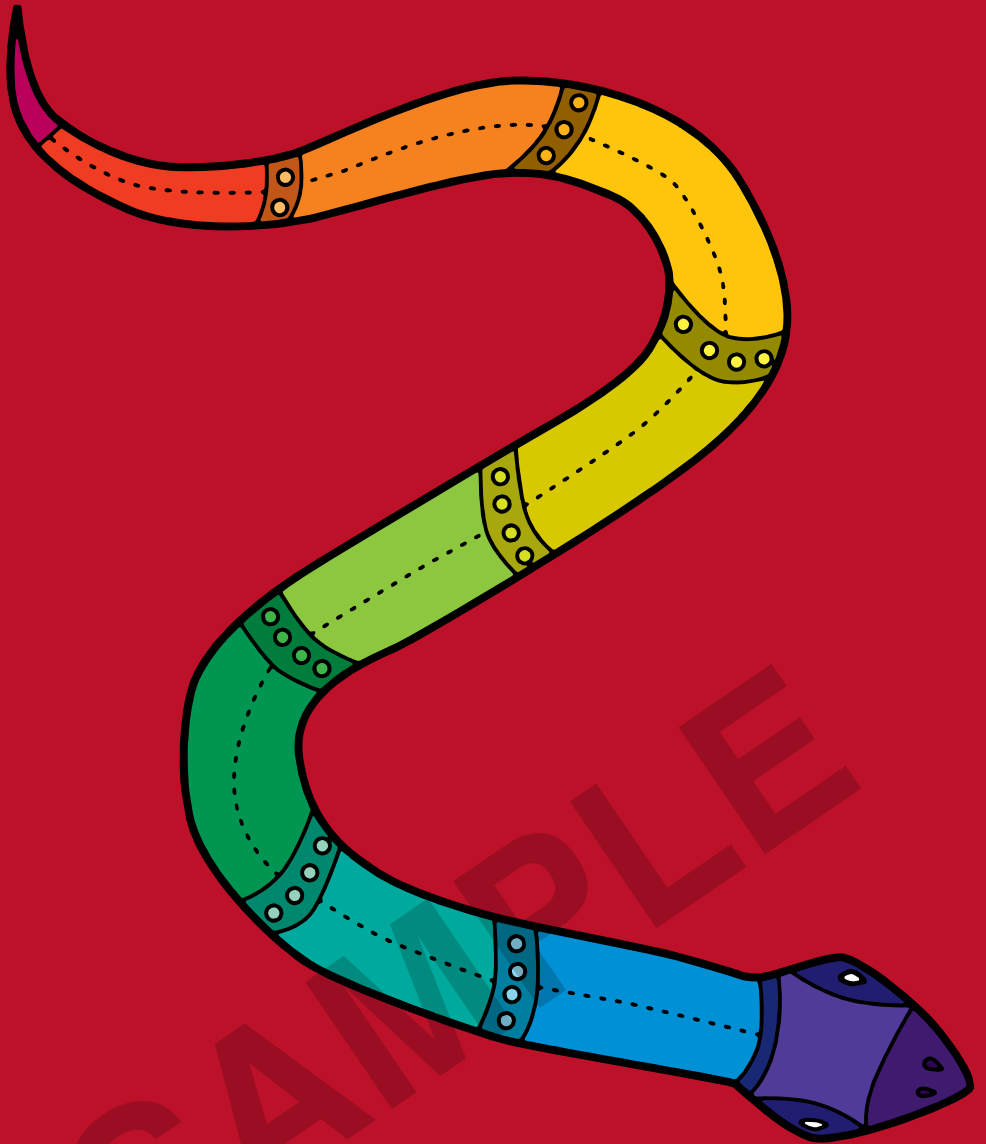
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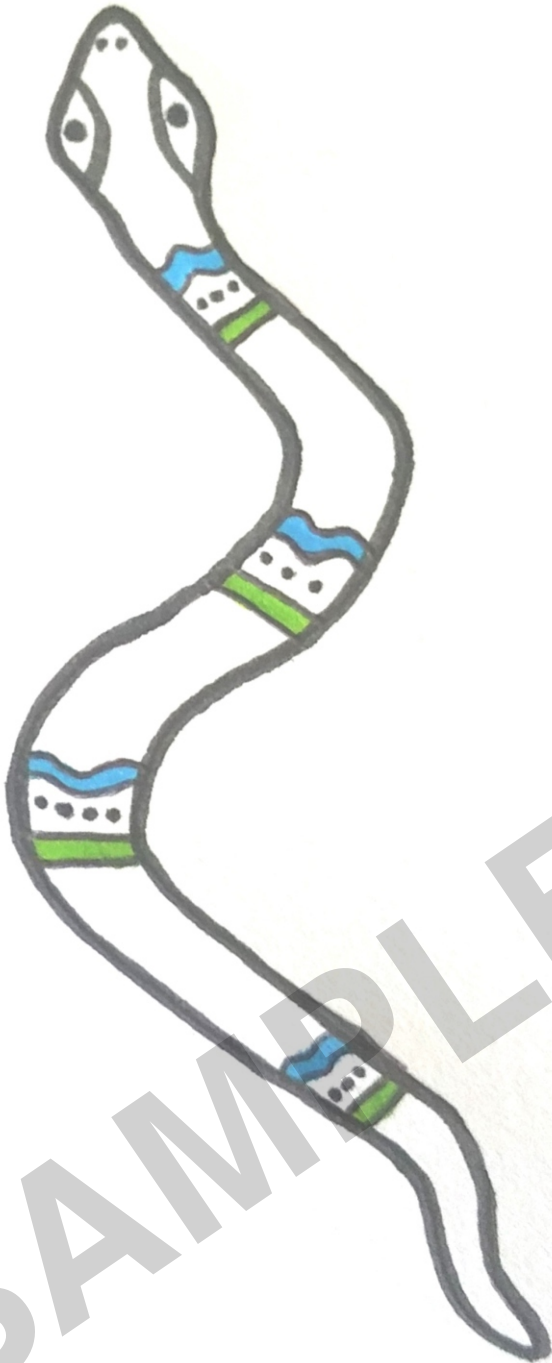


Since I was very young, I knew I was Aboriginal. My mother is Aboriginal but my father is not. I am Aboriginal because my mother is Aboriginal. Her ancestors are from the Wiradjuri Nation. As a child I had a strong connection to the land and animals. I felt more comfortable to be out in nature than inside the house. I often looked very closely at the trees, and birds, and sky, and stars. I believed that there was a mighty creator who made all things.



SAMPLE

My brothers are also Aboriginal. We would play lots as children. We would climb and run and swim. We would walk through the bush and see lizards and snakes. I wasn't scared of snakes because I saw them often. We would camp in the dunes near the beach and make a campfire. We would wake early and go swimming.



SAMPLE

Some of my friends were also Aboriginal. Some had light skin and some had dark skin but we were still Aboriginal. Aboriginal people have lots of different skin tones. What makes them Aboriginal is not only their skin colour. It is that their ancestors were Aboriginal. It is also because they like to be Aboriginal and live the culture. For different reasons some Aboriginal people haven't learnt about their culture. There are people who can teach them if they want to learn.



Word bank

Aboriginal

ancestors

Wiradjuri

connection

comfortable

pipis

lilly pilly

respected

kangaroo

emu

deadly

assembly

Brisbane

Fingal Head

special

community

university

Christian

minister

Marmung

Jarjums

Goori

Reading Recovery Level 22

Word count: 753

Content: Personal recount/explanation

ACARA F-10 references:

Learning Areas: English; Science; Humanities and Social Sciences; The Arts; Languages.

General Capabilities: Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Intercultural Understanding.

Cross Curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures; Sustainability.

Teacher Notes:

In this story, Mark explains the importance of his Aboriginal culture during his younger years, and now as an adult and a father. He talks about what it's like to be Aboriginal and the way in which his culture is taught and shared through the generations.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Talk about something new you've learned from Mark's story.
2. How does Mark ensure that his culture stays strong in his family?
3. What questions would you like to ask Mark about his culture?

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

Aboriginal, ancestors, Wiradjuri, connection, comfortable, pipis, lilly pilly, respected, kangaroo, emu, deadly, assembly, Stradbroke Island, Brisbane, Fingal Head, special, community, University, Christian, minister, Marmung, Jarjums, Goori.

Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People: We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Sensitivity Notice: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are **warned** that the following series may contain images - photographs and illustrations and text about deceased persons.

Aboriginal Culture

In this story, Mark explains the importance of his Aboriginal culture during his younger years, and now as an adult and a father. He talks about what it's like to be Aboriginal and the way in which his culture is taught and shared through the generations.

Author's Bio:

Mark Tirris is a proud descendant of the Wiradjuri Peoples of South West NSW and has always been active in his local Aboriginal community in Northern NSW. He successfully completed a Master's degree in Indigenous Studies (Wellbeing) through Southern Cross University. His professional experience includes five years working in several Aboriginal organisations and managing his own Indigenous consultancy business.



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