

The Noongar Seasons

Sharlene Coombs

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Hunting and gathering always follows the six seasons. These seasons are formed by the weather.





Birak – *December/January*

This is the hot, dry season. Land is burned to bring the animals out. This makes it easier to hunt them.







Bunuru - *February/March*

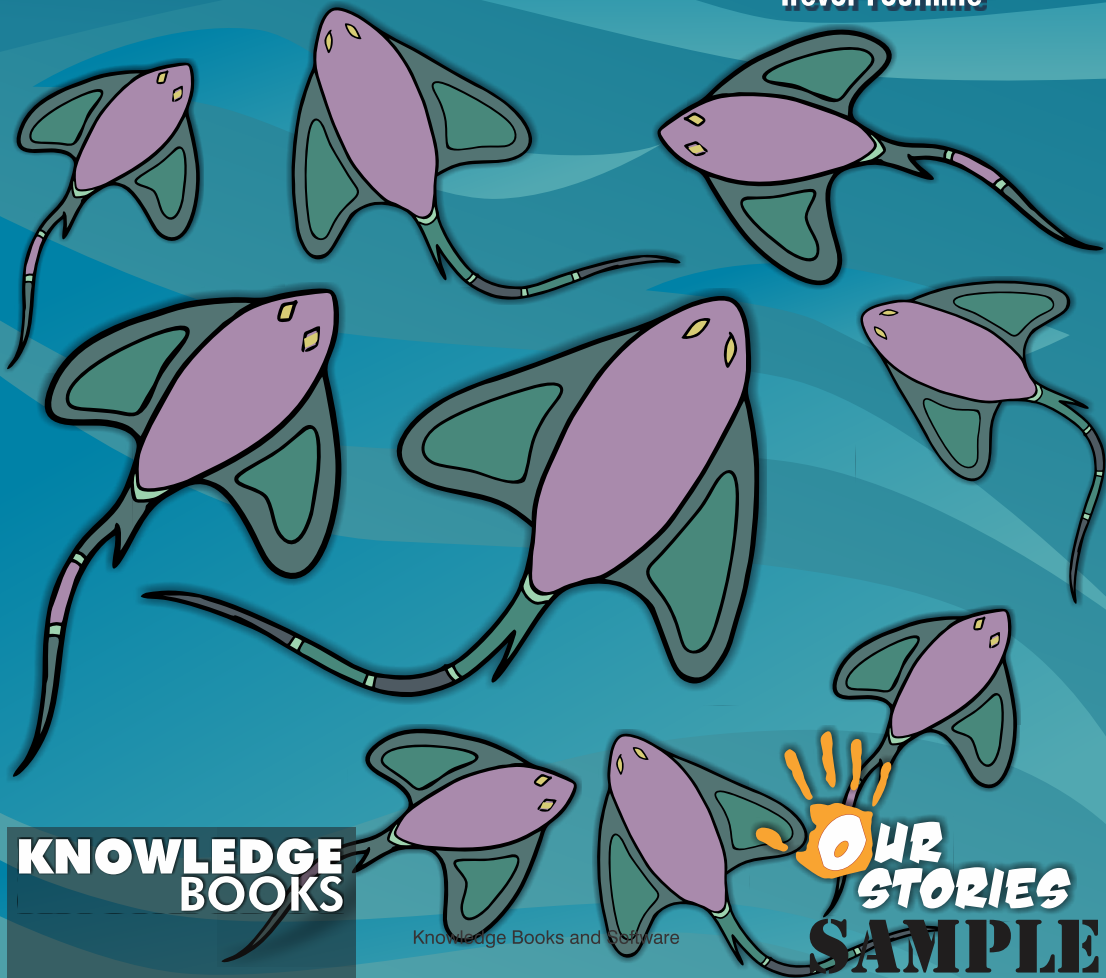
Bunuru is the hottest season of the year. Families move closer to the rivers for fishing and water.



Burinyi

The Great Barrier Reef

Trevor Fourmile



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In the beginning of our storytime, our First Nations people told an important creation story. This story was about a hunting and fishing clan. This clan was special because everyone looked after each other.



Everyone had important roles in this clan. Some would fish and some would hunt. Some would teach the ways of their lore to others. Nobody ever went hungry. However, the clan was worried. Their land was starting to dry out. Food was getting harder to find.





Gunya was a great warrior from this clan. He saw the problems and decided to do something. He needed to find food for his clan. The next day, Gunya got up at sunrise with his wife. He grabbed his special curved woomera (Balur).



Gunya whispered to his special woomera. Suddenly, the water became very calm. Gunya and his wife then paddled out in their canoe. They hoped to catch lots of fish for their clan.

Nature's Time for the First Peoples

Robert T. Watts

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First Nations people had many seasons. The northern people had different seasons to the southern people. Some nations had up to seven different seasons. Others had four seasons.





The First Peoples knew that another season had started by watching for signs. One of these signs was the water dragon and the python moving out of their sleeping places.



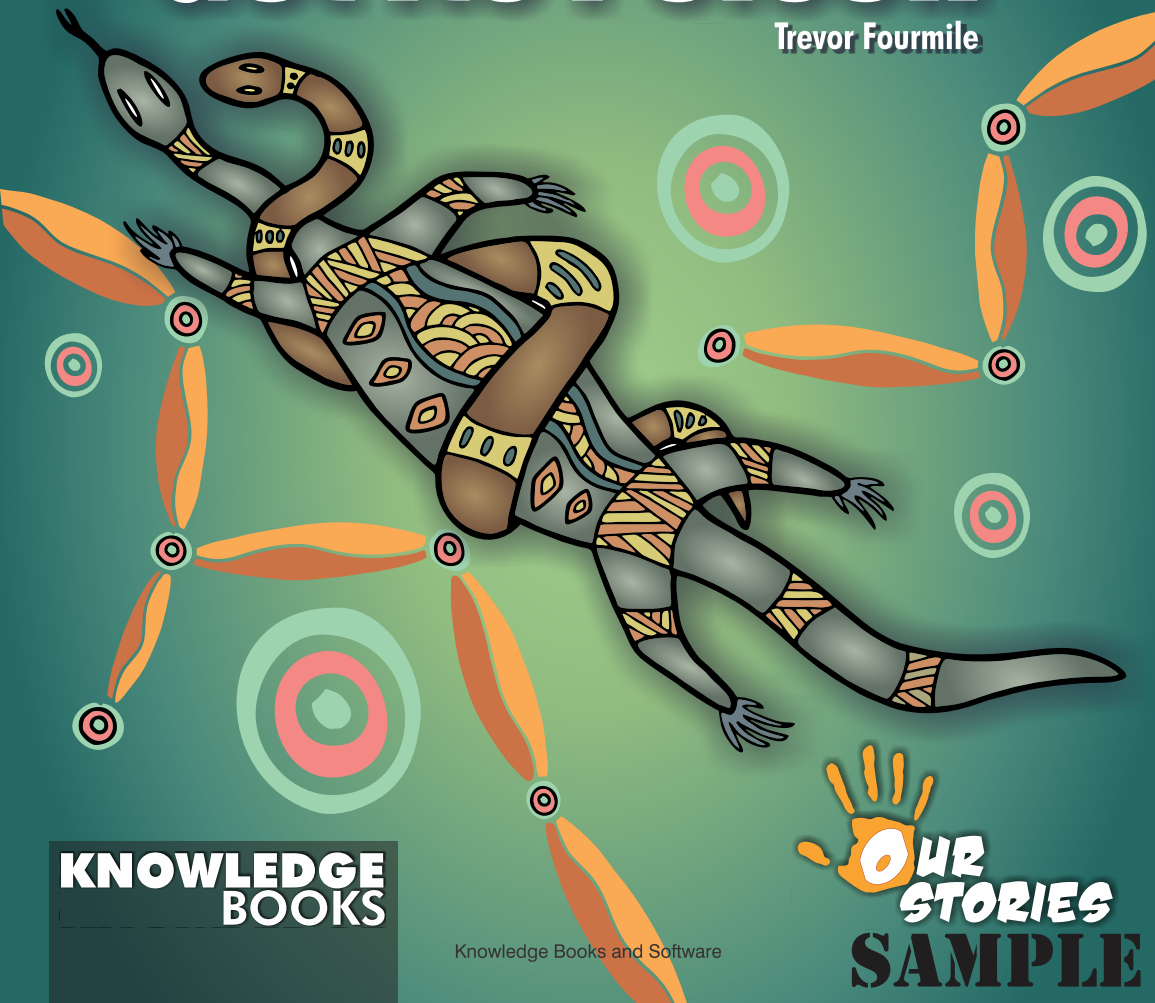
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The Sun gave warmth as it moved across the sky. This was the woman giving warmth. It became warmer for part of the year. This cycle kept going on and on.

How the Snake Got Its Poison

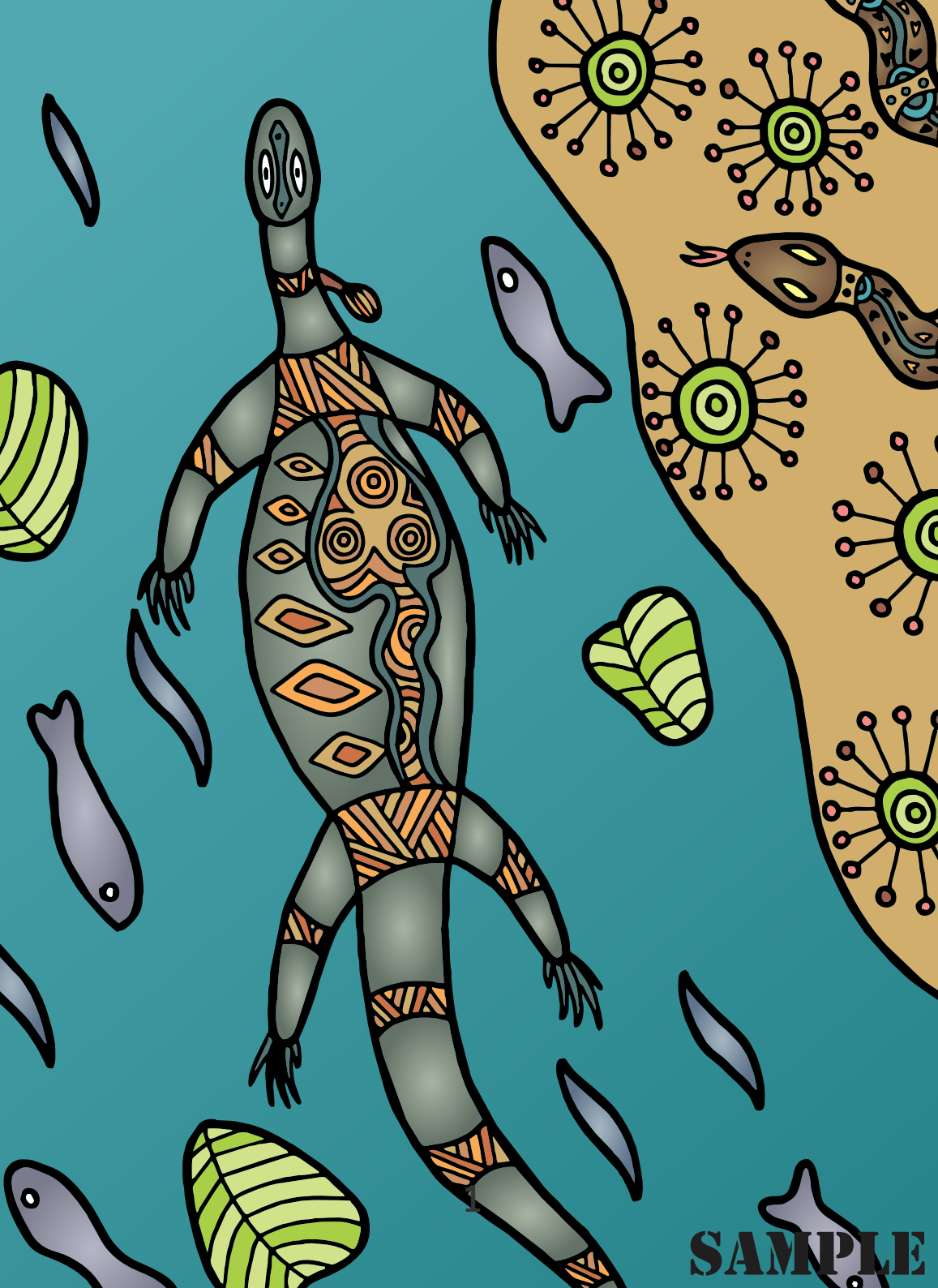
Trevor Fournile



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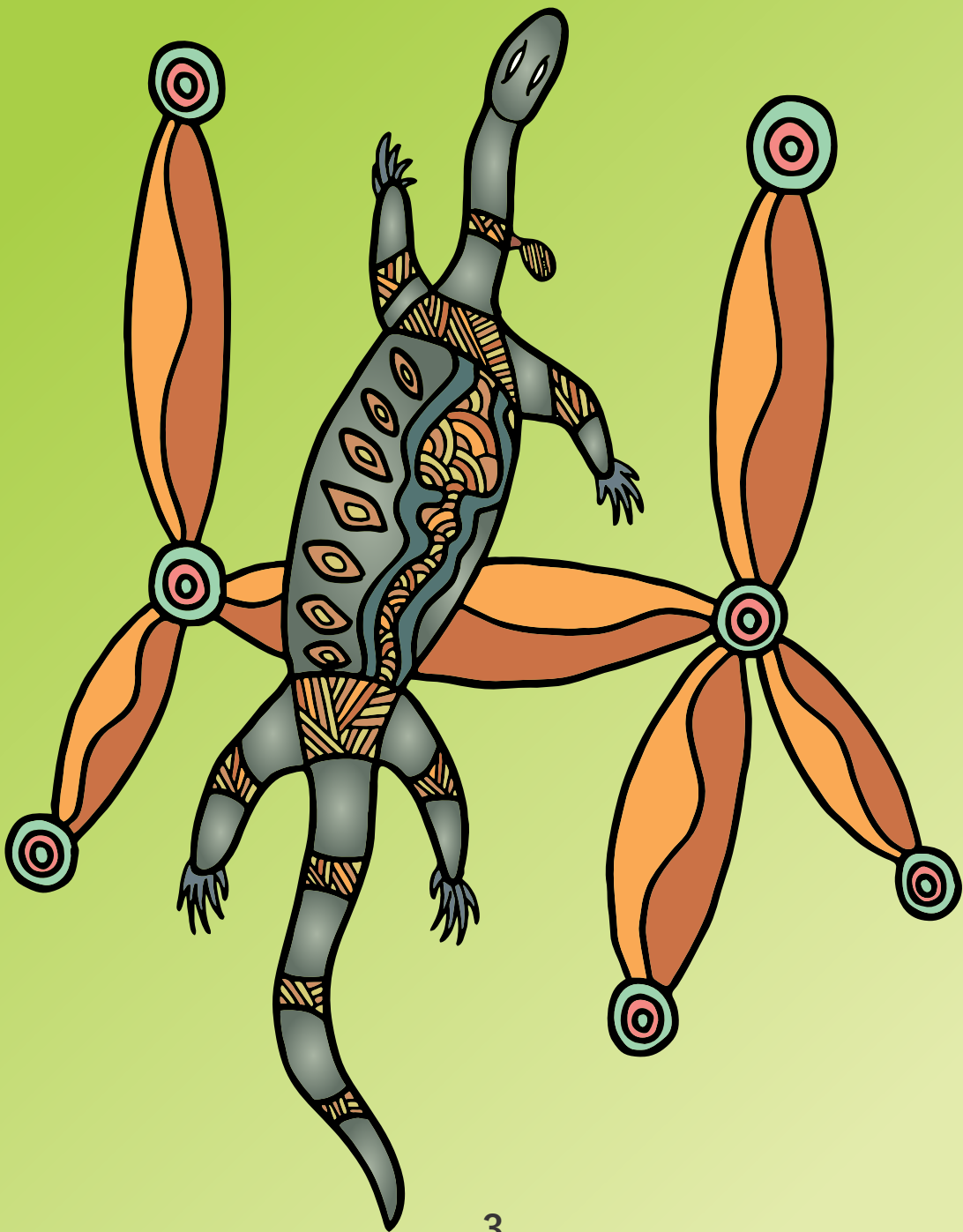
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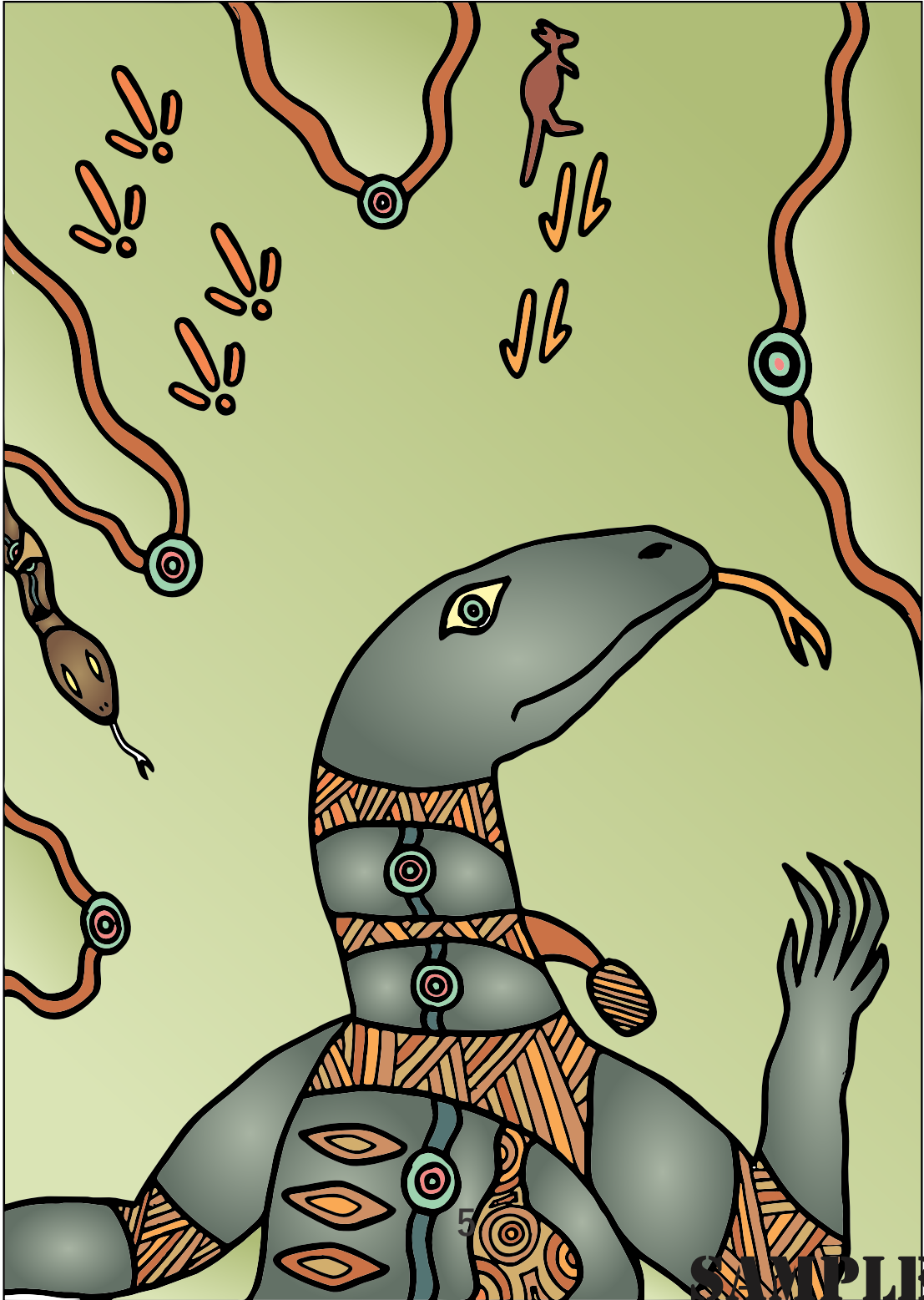


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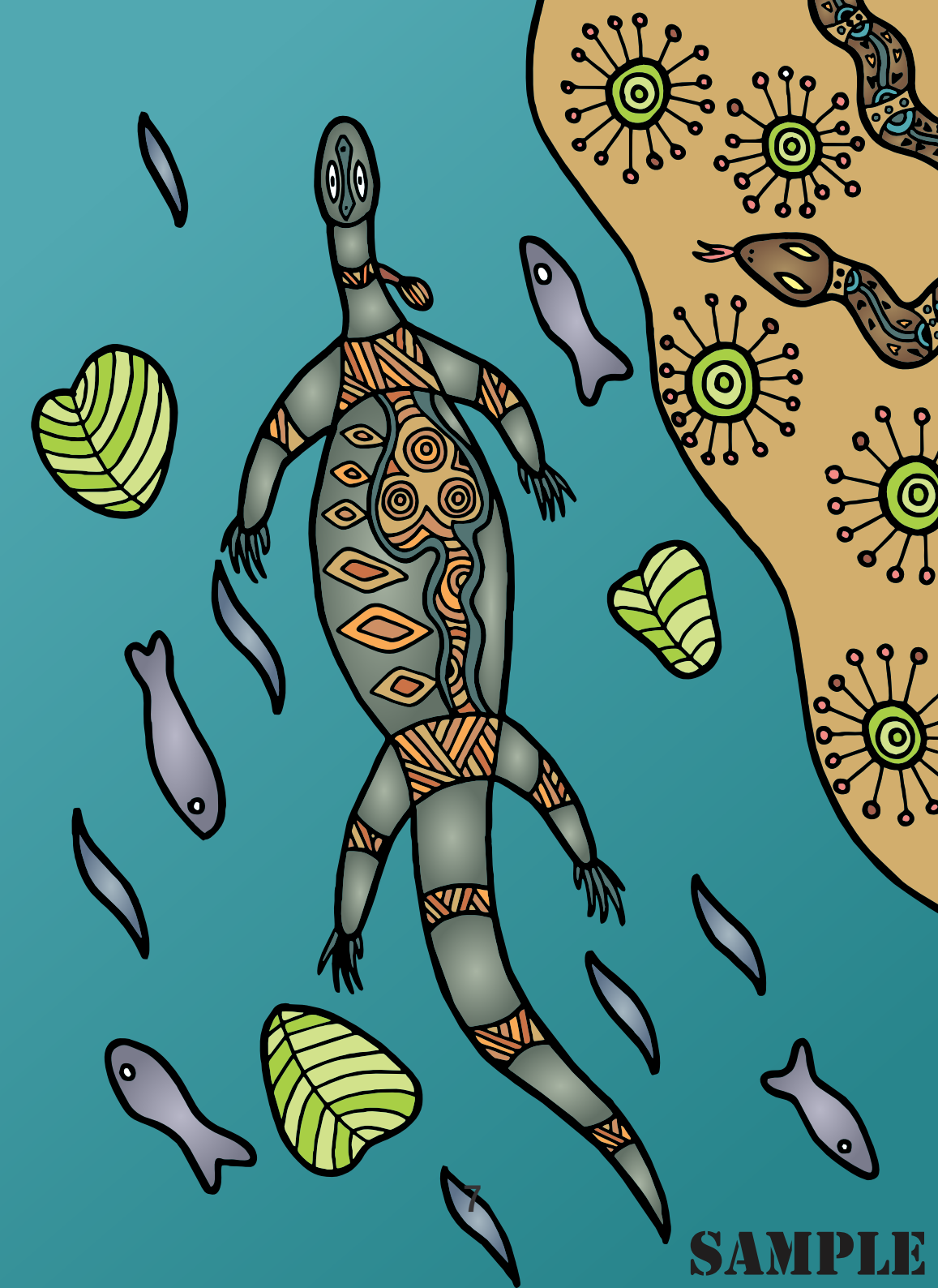
In the Dreamtime of the Yidinji people, there once lived a goanna. This goanna had a powerful necklace. Inside the necklace was a bag filled with poison. Goanna became very powerful with this poisonous necklace.



Everyone was afraid of the goanna. Everyone except the snake. Snake wanted to become as powerful as goanna. He wanted everyone to fear him instead. Every day, snake would follow goanna around. He tried to work out how to steal the necklace off goanna.



Snake followed goanna everywhere.
Every time goanna turned around,
snake was hiding in the bushes.
Goanna went to the rivers, the
caves, and the trees. Snake was
always there trying not to be seen.



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Clearing the Continent

Robert T. Watts

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Captain Cook explored the Pacific and the east coast of Australia. He called the land New South Wales. Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain. It was now owned by Britain.





Eighteen years after Captain Cook came, the British came back. The First Fleet came to Australia to form a colony. Captain Phillip was the new governor. The land was then given or sold to people by the governor.



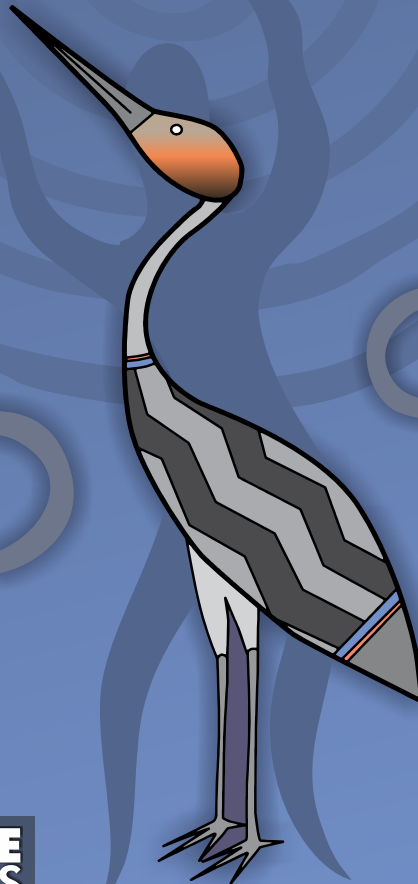
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Wuunjoo

The Boy Who Ate Too Much Coal

Trevor Fourmile



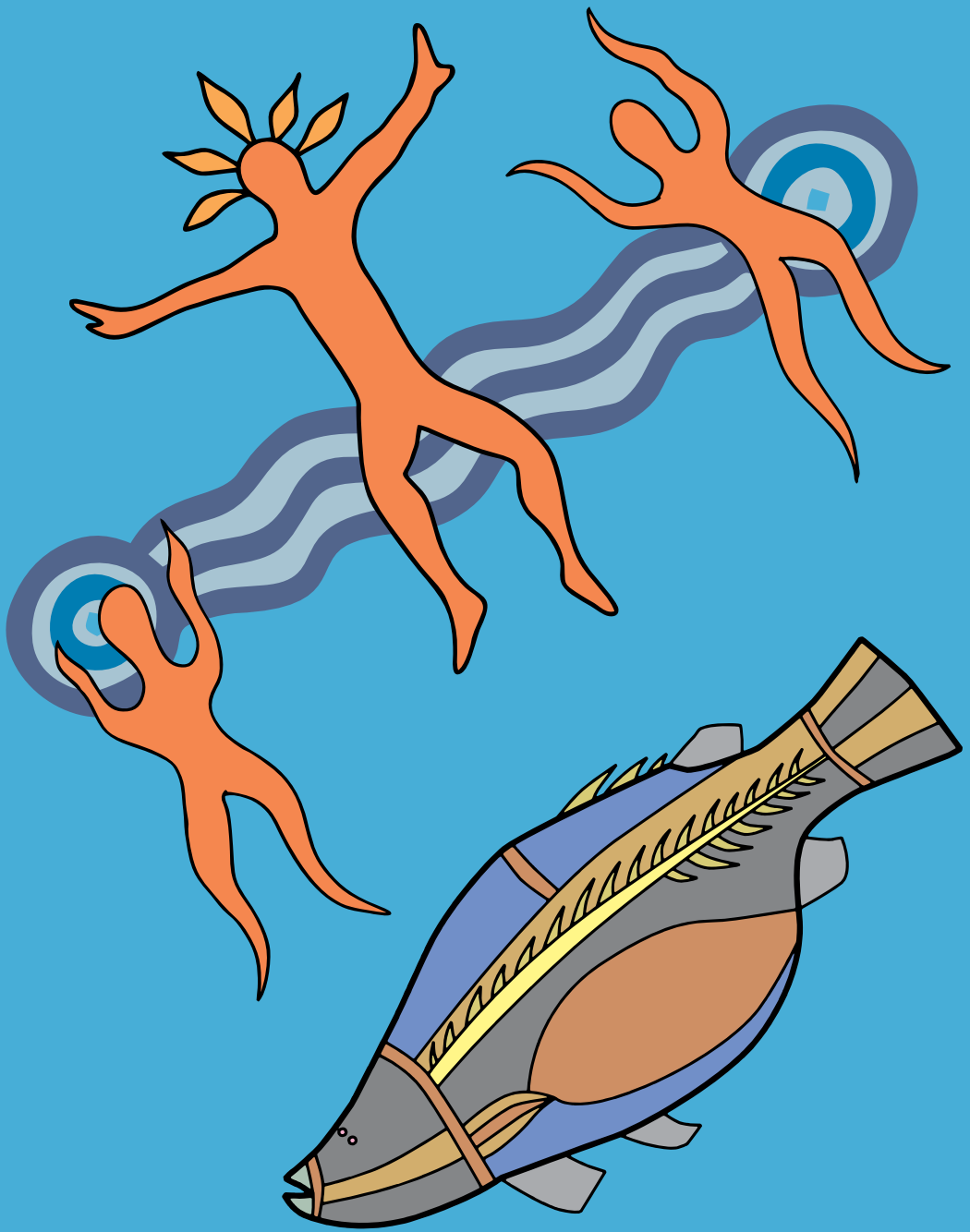
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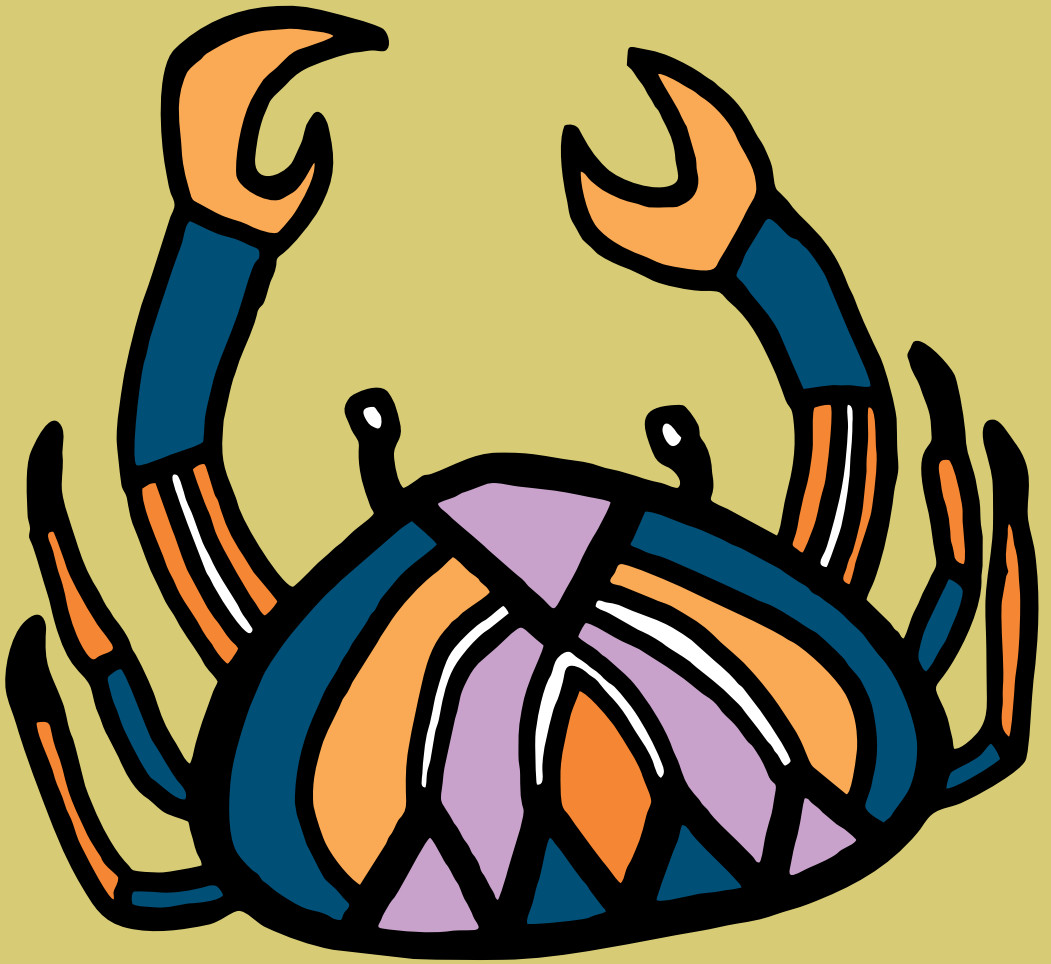
SAMPLE

Back in the Storytime, there was a family who lived in the forest by a river. Every day, they collected nuts and berries to eat. They also hunted and caught wild birds. Sometimes they would walk a long way to go fishing.



One day they walked to the mangroves to gather up jidin (black periwinkle) and ganyjil (crab). The shellfish were very tasty when cooked on the campfire. They spent most of the day gathering them for a big feast that night.





While the family gathered the shellfish, Wuunjoo collected firewood in the forest. He found some dry bloodwood branches. The red sap was good bush medicine for healing sores. Wuunjoo kept some of the bloodwood branches for his sore arm. He tied the wood up and carried it on his back, all the way home.



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Sandalwood Country Traders

Robert T. Watts

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The First Peoples used the sandalwood tree. They made a paste from the hard seeds. The paste was used on the skin and for sore bones. The burning sandalwood tree stopped mosquitoes. Burning sandalwood released a beautiful smell which was used for healing.



Sandalwood grows across Western Australia. It is now grown in the Northern Territory. There are farms growing sandalwood at the top of Queensland. Sandalwood can be grown in many parts of Australia. Sandalwood is sent to many countries.



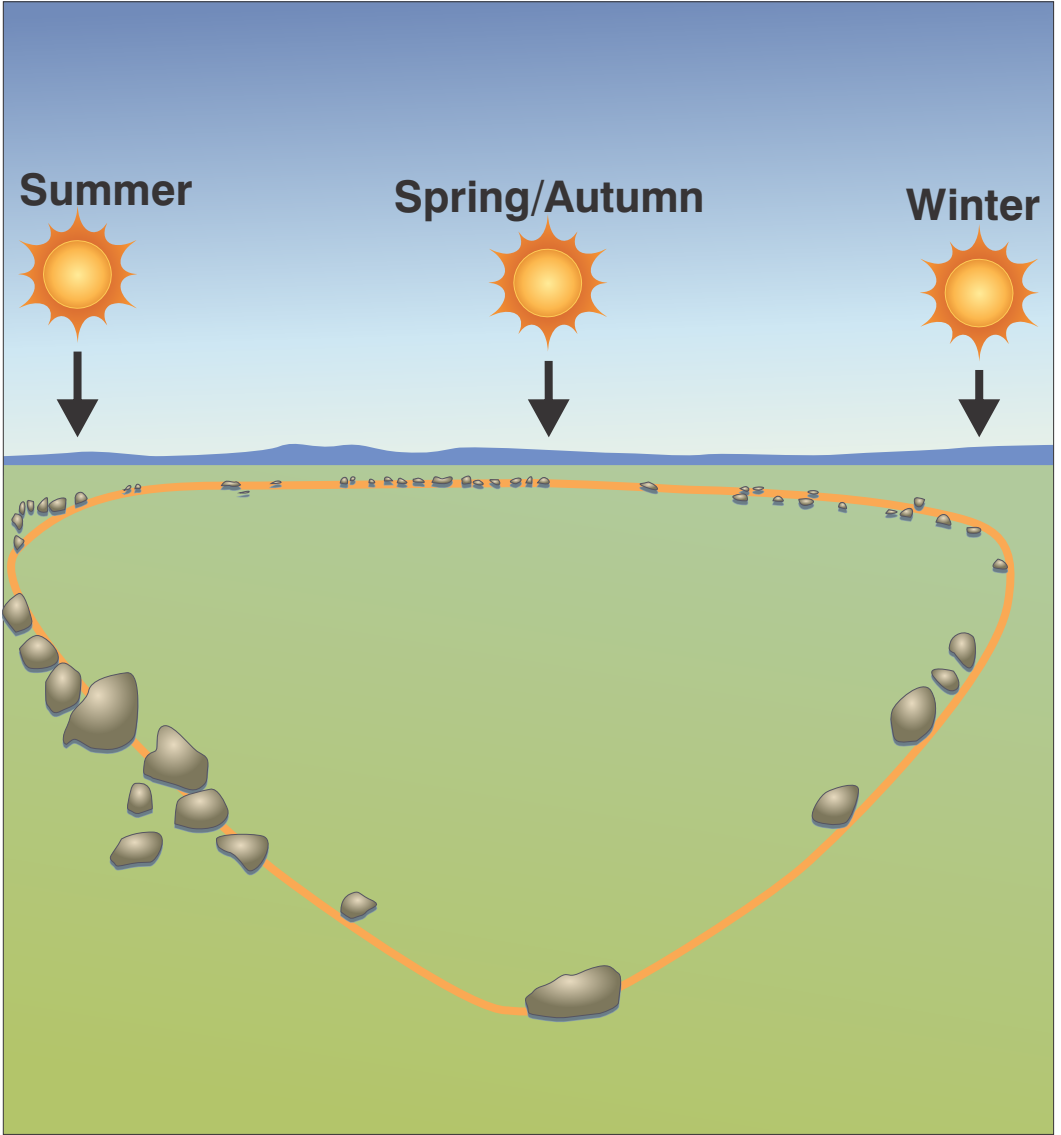
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The World's First Astronomers

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The mid-points of winter and summer were important for First Nations people. It was where the sun rose in the morning and set at night. They would put a stone or mark on the horizon where the sun was at mid-point.



First Peoples would travel a long way to meet other people. Sometimes they would only meet every three years. How did they know when to meet without a clock or calendar? They watched for signs from the sun, the moon, the stars, and other signs from nature. It gave them all the information they needed.



Word bank

important

believed

opposite

signs

different

planets

weather

cycle

image

canoe

galaxy

special

kangaroo

crocodile

meanings

exploding

brightest

cardinal

navigate

Victoria

scientists

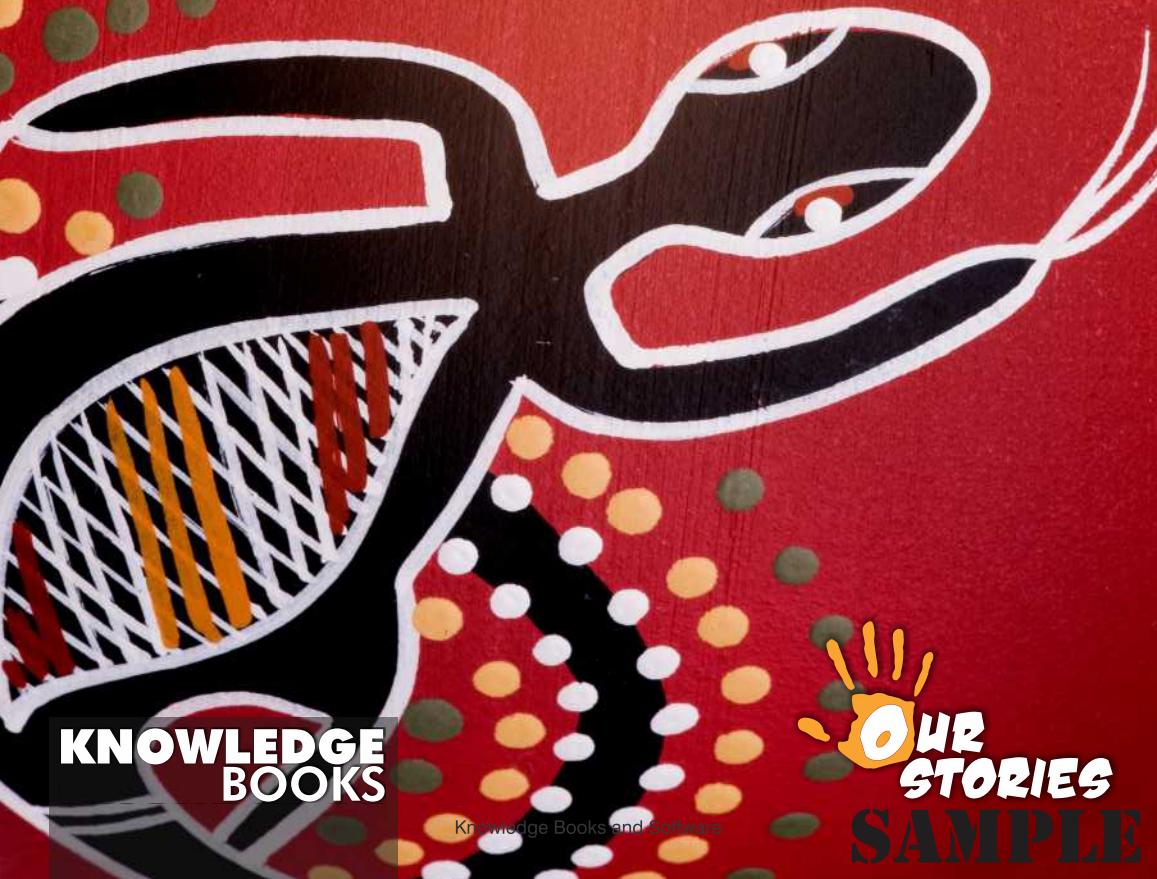
horizon

calendar

information

The Salamander Skink

Ken Jones



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In 2015, Uncle Ken Jones and his Bush Repair team were contacted by Forestry SA. They were asked to do an important job at Woolwash Reserve. The native plants were being taken over by weeds.



One of the jobs of the Bush Repair team is to control weeds. Uncle Ken and his team set off in their 4WD early one morning. Woolwash is a large reserve. It was going to take them two weeks to get rid of all the weeds.





The Ochre Story

Trevor Fourmile

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What is ochre? Ochre is found across Australia and other parts of the world. It is a red, hard clay which is very high in iron. The iron in the clay makes it red. Ochre can also be other colours like white, yellow, green, or grey.





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How was ochre used? This special clay had many uses for First Nations people. It was painted on rock walls to tell stories. It was painted on skin in special ceremonies. It was also used in medicine and body cleaning. It is still used in all these ways today.



5

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Ochre was dug up in large, hard chunks of rock. There were many ochre quarries across Australia. The ochre was broken away from the rock. It was then made into a fine powder.

Trackers

Seeing More in Nature!

Lance Short

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The First Peoples moved through forests, mountains, rivers, and large desert areas. They travelled and lived across much of Australia. The First Peoples did not get lost. How did they do this? How did they know where to go?



SWILL



The First Peoples had no road or track signs. Paper and online maps did not exist. How did they know where they were and where they had to go? How did they find their food and water?



The Possum Skin Cloak

Ken Jones

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 Temperate

Australia is the flattest continent on Earth. However, you can still find high, cold country in some areas. Parts of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory have high mountains. These areas have a cold climate. It often snows there in winter.



First Nations people have lived in Australia's high, cold country for thousands of years. Different tribes used to meet on some of the highest peaks every summer. They would trade together and wear their brightly painted cloaks at special ceremonies. They would also feast on the Bogong moths that migrated here.





Aboriginal Stockmen

Robert T. Watts

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Did you know that horses are not a native Australian animal? They were brought to Australia when the settlers arrived. Horses, sheep, goats, and cattle are all introduced species.

Many of the horses that came to Australia were ridden by soldiers. They were also used to carry heavy loads.



Horses were often used for work. They pulled heavy carts and wagons. This let people travel inland for long distances. It was a lot faster to ride than walk. Horses were also ridden on farms and used for ploughing fields.



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Digging Up the Past in Ancient Australia

Thomas L. James

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First Nations peoples have lived in Australia for a very long time. They have been in Australia for more than 50,000 years. Australia has the oldest surviving culture in the world.

How did they survive in such a hard place? Why did their culture keep going for so long? How can we learn from them to keep our culture going for another 50,000 years? We must make sure all people work together to have the water, air, and food they need to live safely.





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How do we find out about the past?
Only hard bones and teeth are left.
If bones are left on the surface, they
break down quickly from the sun,
wind, and rain.

Sometimes the bones of ancient
animals turn into rock. Scientists
call these fossils. It takes over
10,000 years for a bone to turn into
a fossil. The fossil becomes part of
the rock.





Large animals lived in Australia a long time ago. Some have been found as fossils. How do you think a fossil is formed?

To form a fossil, you need to replace the bones. Water with minerals moves into the shapes left by the bones. This dries slowly and turns to hard rock. This can be seen where water has been running over rocks. Caves with fantastic rock shapes are also made this way.



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Naming Country

Sharlene Coombs

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Have you ever wondered where the name of a place comes from? You can find unusual place names right across Australia.

Some place names sound like they are from the English language. Others sound like they are from different Aboriginal languages.

WELCOME TO

QUEENSLAND

Welcome to
New South Wales



i FOR VISITOR INFORMATION

SAMPLE

First Nations people gave names to most of the continent of Australia. Many First Nations place names are thousands of years old. Most were named to describe the landscape around them.

These place names were very important to the people who lived there. First Nations people connected to Country through them. They were part of their identity.



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The Grampians /Gariwerd

Sharlene Coombs

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The Grampians / Gariwerd has many different landforms. These landforms helped to provide food, water, and shelter for the first peoples. The area also has many caves and rock shelters.

Caves and rock shelters were very important to the Gariwerd first peoples. They took shelter from the cold, wet weather. They made their homes in them for thousands of years.



Many of the landforms help to tell the Gariwerd Creation story. First Nations people gave these landforms special names. Some of these include:

- Halls Gap / Budja Budja
- Mount Difficult / Gar
- Mount Zero / Mura Mura (little hill)
- Mount William / Duwul (the mountain)



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Going on a Walkabout!

Trevor Fourmile

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Close your eyes and listen carefully. What can you hear? A kookaburra laughing? A red-tailed black cockatoo screeching? Maybe you can hear a frog croaking.

I love the sound of the wind as it blows through the she-oaks. First Nations people call this tree the Mother Tree. She whispers to them as the wind blows through her leaves.



SAMPLE



What can you smell? In Spring, the golden wattle has a very strong smell. Insects love this smell! They will buzz around it all day long, collecting pollen.

Sometimes if you're walking among gum trees, you can smell the eucalyptus oil in the gum leaves. It smells fresh! One of my other favourite things is the smell just before a storm comes.



What can you feel? Is it cold or hot, windy, or still? Notice how the sun feels on your skin. What does the ground feel like under your bare feet?

Visit a waterfall and stand safely near it. Feel the spray on your skin as it splashes on the rocks. Go for a swim in the cool water and enjoy a waterfall massage!





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Wauchope Celebrates NAIDOC Week!

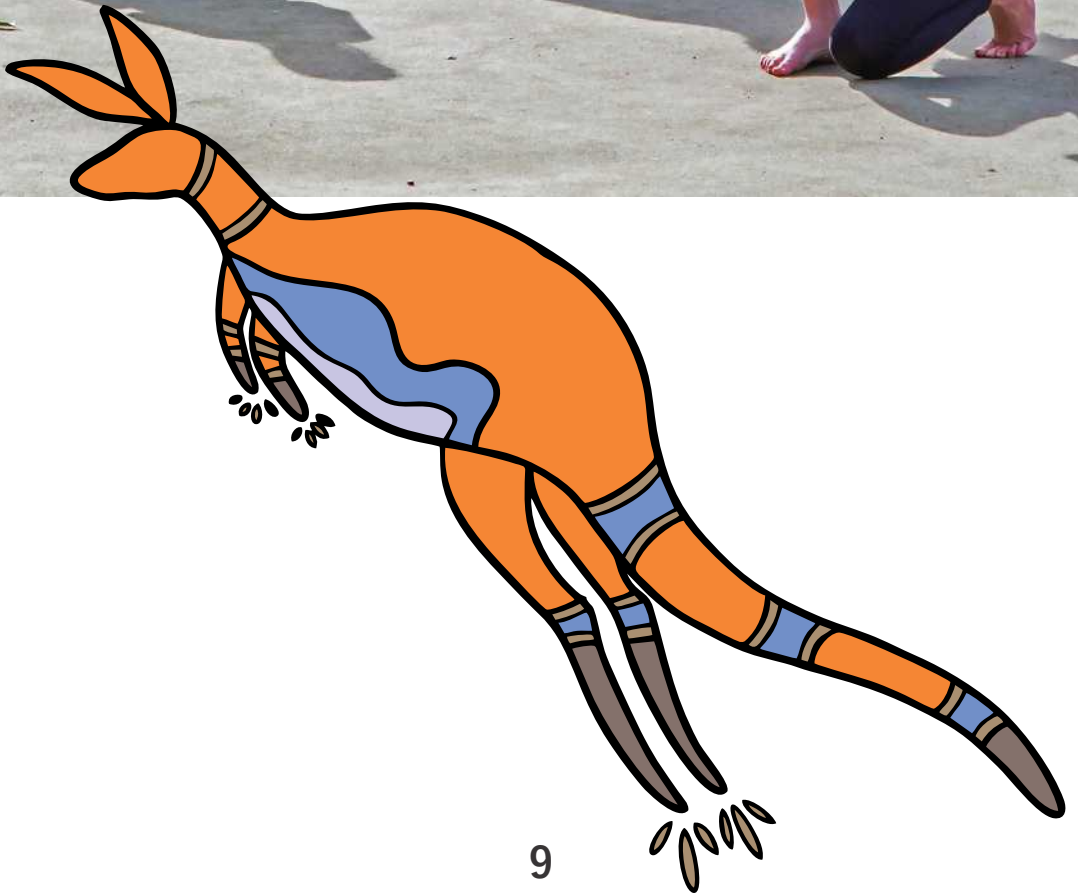


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This year, our school and community celebrated NAIDOC Week with girls' dance. We showed off our culture by being painted in ochre and dancing. It made us feel proud to be Aboriginal.

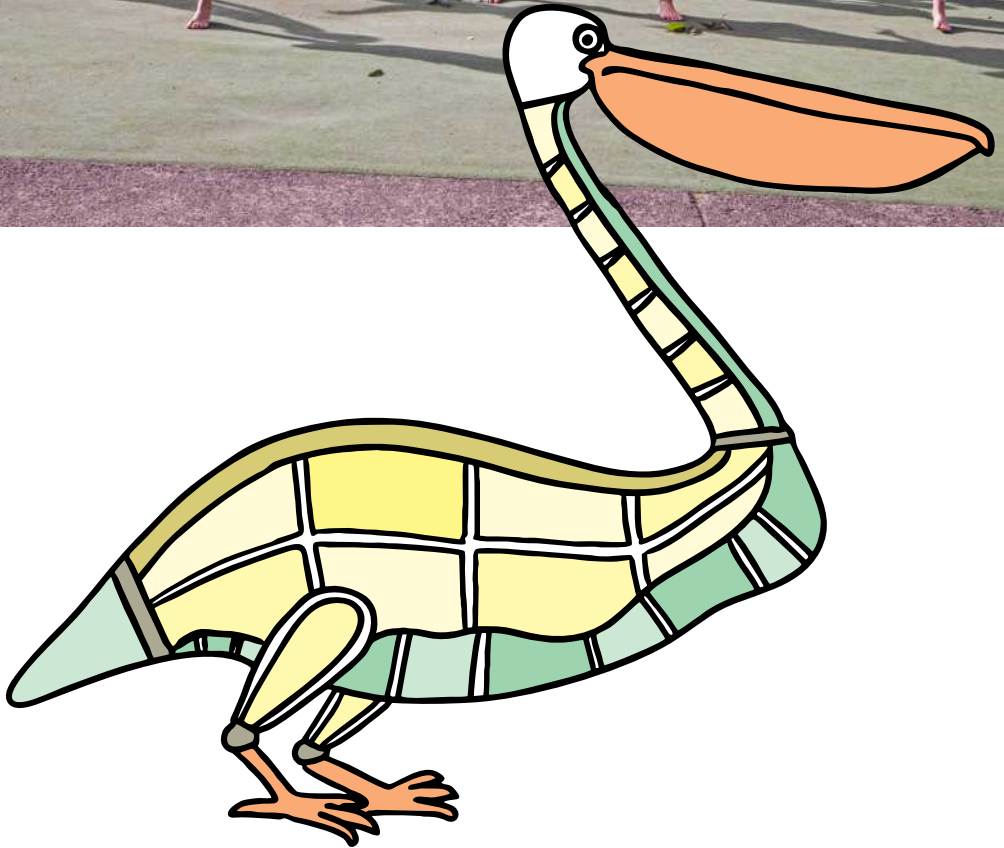
We learned a totem dance and a show off dance. We loved the totem dance! Our totems were shark, eagle, stingray, kangaroo, bass, crab, and dolphin. We paired with the little ones and danced for our school and community.



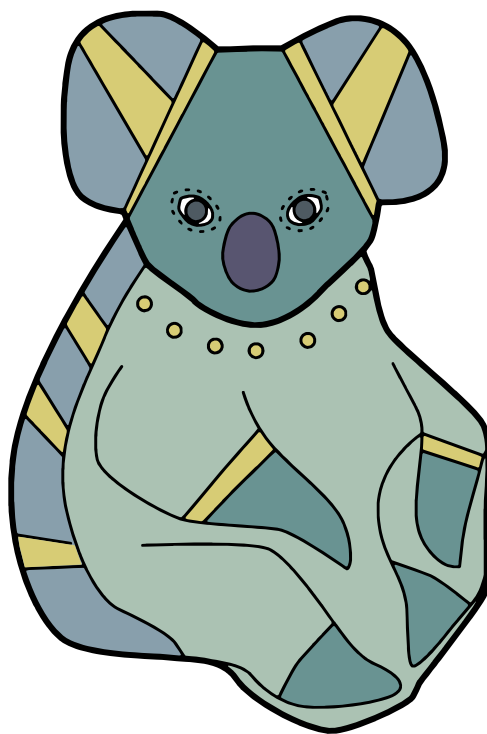
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The Aboriginal boys' dance group practised the pelican dance. They performed it on the basketball court for our school and community during NAIDOC Week.

We also did the show off dance in two groups, and then together. We wore lap-laps and we painted ochre on our body. We all enjoyed it so much!



During NAIDOC Week, we also had a weaving workshop. It was lots of fun, and we learned some new skills. First, we made a cardboard shape of a koala. Then, we used a thin piece of grass to weave in and out of the holes until we reached the end. After this, we tied it and painted ochre on it.



Lest We Forget

William Charles Westbury

Ken Jones

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After the war, William found work on the railway. He also spent time on farms, digging potatoes, and trapping rabbits. He started feeling healthy again and went back to playing football and cricket.

In the hot summer of 1919, William tested his speed on the running track by entering a 5.5km race. Even with his old battlefield injuries and 3 missing toes, he won this and many other races. Here are some of his gold medals.



For many years, William continued to enjoy life and the outdoors. He was well-liked and respected by the whole Pinnaroo community. Finally, on 20 February 1936, an old leg injury caught up with him and William died of tetanus. He was only 58.

Today, you can visit my grandfather's grave at Pinnaroo Cemetery and give thanks for his war efforts. William Charles Westbury was one of many Aboriginal soldiers to serve his country. However, he was the only one to serve in both the Boer War and World War 1. We will never forget his efforts to help keep our country safe.



SAMPLE

Word bank

Boandik
community
grandfather
interested
talented
athlete
recruited
imperial
battalion
kilometres
welcomed
labourer
Pinnaroo
continue
enlisted
soldier
Egypt

mascot
battleground
Gallipoli
comrades
Anzac
fierce
injured
recovered
evacuated
infantry
Mouquet
Pozières
discharged
conduct
respected
tetanus
cemetery

Celebrating Culture The Casino Way

Casino Public School



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Every play time, we have lots of fun groups we can join to help us connect with our culture. The interactive bush tucker garden helps us learn how to look after our land. It teaches us how to use native plants for food and medicine.

We call ourselves the Deadly Eagles and we are the custodians of the garden. We have meetings every week to decide what we would like to do next with the garden. Our voices are always heard.



A TIME
TO
REFLECT

SAMPLE

At Casino Public School, we can join in and learn traditional dance. We even get to perform our dances for our families and friends on special days like during NAIDOC Week.





At school, we love to tell our stories through paintings. We also learn about the traditional symbols of Aboriginal artwork.



