



Teacher Resource

Kurna with Tiyana

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Retell the BTN Kurna with Tiyana story to another student.
2. Kurna people are the traditional owners of which area in South Australia? Find on a map.
3. Complete the following sentence. Since _____ a lot of Indigenous languages have been lost.
4. Why was the Kurna language nearly lost?
5. Who taught Tiyana how to speak Kurna?
6. How does Tiyana feel about teaching other kids about Kurna culture and language?
7. What does the Kurna word for Torrens River mean?
8. What does Ngai Nari mean?
9. Who are the traditional custodians of the land in your local area?
10. Find the words for 'hello' and 'goodbye' in the Indigenous language local to your area.

Activity: See, think and wonder

After watching the BTN Kurna with Tiyana story hold a class discussion, using the following as discussion starters:

- What do you THINK about what you saw in the BTN Kurna with Tiyana story?
- What does this video make you WONDER about Indigenous languages?
- Think of three QUESTIONS you have about the story.
- What did you LEARN from the BTN story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Continue the class discussion, asking students to respond to the following questions:

- What language/s do you speak? Write a list of all the languages students speak in your class.
- What do you know about Indigenous languages?
- What Indigenous languages are spoken where you live?
- Why do you think it's important to keep Indigenous languages alive?
- Why is preserving Indigenous languages difficult?
- What are the benefits of learning an Indigenous language?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the local Indigenous languages where they live.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 3

Understanding that languages have different written and visual communication systems, different oral traditions and different ways of constructing meaning.

English – Year 4

Understand that Standard Australian English is one of many social dialects used in Australia, and that while it originated in England it has been influenced by many other languages.

English – Year 6

Understand that different social and geographical dialects or accents are used in Australia in addition to Standard Australian English.

History – Year 3

The importance of Country/Place to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples who belong to a local area.

Further Learning

Students research their own cultural heritage and the languages in their family history. Ask students if they think it's important to celebrate cultural heritage and to know their family's languages and histories?

Activity: Local Indigenous Languages

Who are the traditional custodians of the land where you live and what languages do they speak?

Students will learn more about their local Indigenous languages by exploring the [Gambay – First Languages Map](#). Enter the place they live to find out the Indigenous languages in their area. Many of the Indigenous languages have videos or resources to support students to learn more about the language.

Learn words in your local Indigenous language! The [50 Words Project](#) provides words in Indigenous languages. Use the map to search the local language and learn 50 words. All words have audio recordings provided by language speakers.



Further Learning

Invite an Indigenous language speaker to your school to learn more about the local languages.

Activity: Learn First Languages through song

The [Marrin Gamu song](#) was created to introduce people to the diversity of Australia's first languages. The song incorporates words from several different Indigenous language groups within Australia. Follow the instructions to get involved in creating and sharing your song.

- Watch the song and translate it into your local Indigenous language.
- Learn the song in your local language.
- Record a film clip of your song.
- Upload the video.



Activity: Learning our First Words on Country

Listen to the diverse languages, stories and Countries of Indigenous Australia in these [Little Yarns](#) audio resources. Teachers can check out the [educators notes](#) for ideas to get the most out of the Little Yarns podcast series.



Activity: This Place

Around Australia, many places are known by their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names. Indigenous communities share the stories behind place names of their country in the [This Place](#) series. Do you know the meaning of the place names where you live?



Students can explore the place names where they live using the [Gambay interactive map](#).

Check out [ABC Education's English resources](#) that explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Learn about language conventions while discovering various Australian Indigenous languages and cultures.

BTN Indigenous Language Stories

Students can watch one or more of the BTN stories below to learn more about Indigenous languages.



[Indigenous Place Names](#)



[Palawa Kani](#)



[Indigenous Art and Language](#)



[Indigenous Language Lessons](#)

Useful Websites

- [Karna for Kids](#) – YouTube
- [Gambay – First Languages Map](#) - First Languages Australia
- [50 Words Project](#) – University of Melbourne
- [Little Yarns](#) – ABC Listen
- [Marrin Gamu](#) – First Languages Song