



Teacher Resource

Garma Kids

Focus Questions

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

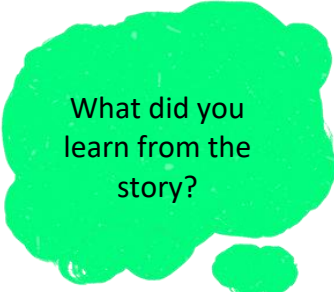
1. What is the Garma Festival?
2. Where is the Garma Festival held? Find on a map.
3. What sorts of activities are the kids at Garma involved in?
4. Why was Bluey visiting Garma this year?
5. Garma is a Yolŋu word meaning...

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Garma Kids story in small groups or as a class. What questions do they have?

Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What is the Garma Festival? What does it celebrate?
- Where is the Garma Festival held? Find Gulkula on a [map](#).
- What does the word *Garma* mean?
- Who goes to the Garma Festival?
- Who are the traditional owners of the land, where the Garma Festival is held?
- What are some of the important issues that are talked about at the Garma Festival?



What did you learn from the story?



What questions do you have about the story?

EPISODE 21

4 August 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the theme of Garma Festival 2026 and explore the importance of bringing people together.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

The influence of people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, on the environmental characteristics of Australian places.

HASS – Year 6

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children.

HASS – Year 7

The importance of conserving the remains of the ancient past, including the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This document may contain the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

Activity: Garma Theme

The theme for the 2026 Garma Festival is **Bukmak** which means “**everyone**” in the Yolŋu language. The theme celebrates inclusion, diversity, respect and the strength that comes from communities coming together.

Students will explore the meaning of Bukmak and the importance of coming together as a community. They will then create an artwork that represents the theme.



The meaning of Everyone

After watching the BTN Garma Kids story, explain that this year’s festival theme is Bukmak, a Yolŋu word meaning “everyone”. Ask students to reflect on how unity, diversity and respect contribute to positive school and community relationships.

Discuss the theme as a class and record students’ responses on the class whiteboard. Below are some questions to guide the discussion.

- What does “everyone” mean to you?
- Why do you think the Garma Festival chose Bukmak (everyone) as the theme?
- What are some examples in the BTN story when the Bukmak theme was celebrated?

Ask students to think about the people who make up your school community. Discuss the different ways diversity can be seen in a school including cultural backgrounds, languages, interests/talents and beliefs and traditions. Below are some questions to guide a class discussion.

- Who are the people that make up our school community?
- Think of times your class or school comes together to celebrate diversity.
- What makes people feel included?
- Why is it important that everyone feels they belong?
- Why does celebrating everyone help build stronger communities?

Keywords

Record key words or themes that come from student’s responses and then use a word cloud generator to turn your students keywords into visual art. Alternatively students can create an acrostic poem using the word Bukmak or everyone. Below are some example keywords:

- Friendship
- Belonging
- Celebration
- Included
- Together
- Respect
- Culture
- Language
- Connection
- Community
- Welcoming

- Traditions
- Share
- Diversity

Create Artwork

Students will create a poster or mind map inspired by the theme Bukmak – Everyone, which focusses on your school community. Students will consider the following when creating their poster or mind map:

- symbols, colours and images that represent people coming together.
- Ways that “everyone” is celebrated at your school
- The diversity of people in your school
- Actions that help people feel included
- Examples of respect shown in everyday school life
- What do you want people to feel when they look at your artwork or mind map?

Reflection

Students will reflect on the activity and respond to one or more of the following:

- Bukmak means...
- Everyone belongs when...
- Our school celebrates diversity by...
- One way I can help everyone feel included is...

Activity: News in My Neighbourhood

Do your students have something to say about the big issues impacting their lives? Do they want to put their writing, reporting and media making skills to the test?

ABC Education is running the **News in My Neighbourhood** competition which invites students to create and produce creative responses to a series of news and information challenges. Find out how to enter [here](#). *Please note, submissions close 25 September 2026.*

The Term 3 challenge

Produce a short video (around 2 minutes), write 150-250 words, or do a drawing/artwork to tell us about a community or culture you're a part of and something newsworthy about it that you think other people should know.



ABC Education – [News in My Neighbourhood](#)

Useful Websites

- [Garma Festival](#) – Yothu Yindi Foundation
- [Garma Festival 2023](#) – BTN