

Educator Notes – Batjamalh

Episodes

Wilerr - Saltwater Crocodile

Marrutj - Mud Crab

Meme - Jellyfish

Overview

Rudi and the kids take us on a journey to meet Maree on Wadjigany Country, where the Timor Sea meets the mouth of the Daly River. Wadjigany Country is south-west of Darwin in the Northern Territory. Maree shares some words with us in Batjamalh, the language of the Wadjigany. You can learn them too!

Consider how Maree's episodes of *Little Yarns* can extend children's knowledge of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander language and culture. How can provocations from Batjamalh language learning enrich your program for children and families?

Extension ideas

Where is Wadjigany Country? Check out the [Gambay First Languages Map](#) to find out more.

Maree describes the importance of caring for Country and having respect for all its creatures. **Marrutj** (mud crab) is a very special animal to Maree, it's the totem of her Wadjigany family group.

- **Prompt reflection and discussion in relation to your local environment.** *What native Australian animals live nearby? How can we help protect their habitats? How can we care for our local environment?*

Consider creative ways to document and share children's ideas; record video-stories, suggest children create artworks to represent key ideas, create a shared brainstorm and invite families and visitors to contribute their ideas too.

We hear the unique soundscape of Wadjigany Country in this episode; the call of birds, the rhythmic wash of waves, big storms, cicadas and bees ...

- **Connect with the sounds of nature** around your service. Be mindful and unwind before rest time - invite children to sit quietly in the outdoor area, close their eyes and listen. Start with about 1 quiet minute, then build up to a few more before asking children to talk about what they hear.



Image: Wikipedia. Daly River, Northern Territory.

Maree reminds Rudi and the kids to look out and be careful at the water's edge ... **wilerr** (saltwater crocodiles) are about! Big rains bring dangerous **meme** (box jellyfish) to the beaches and rivers. Wilerr and meme call Wadjigany Country home, this is their place too.

- Check out these books to help build children's knowledge of the diverse animals and weather systems of the Top End:
 - *'Big Fella Rain'* (2017) by Beryl Webber & Fern Martins (illustrator)
 - *'Big Rain Coming'* (2002) by Katrina Germein & Bronwyn Bancroft (illustrator)
 - *'Walking with the Seasons in Kakadu'* (2005) by Diane Lucas and Ken Searle (illustrator)
 - *'At the Beach I See'* – Young Art Series (2017) by Kamsani Bin Salleh (illustrator)
 - *'Deadly Reads for Deadly Readers - Saltwater Series'* (2012) by Nola Turner Jensen, Dub Leffler & Maggie Prewett (illustrators)



Image: Pexels; wilerr (Saltwater Crocodile)



Country: Wadjigany

Language: Batjamalh

Focus word	Meaning
Wilerr	Saltwater crocodile
Marrutj	Mud crab
Meme	Box jellyfish

Additional words	Meaning
Memembena	Dolphin
Katilk katilk	Rocket frog

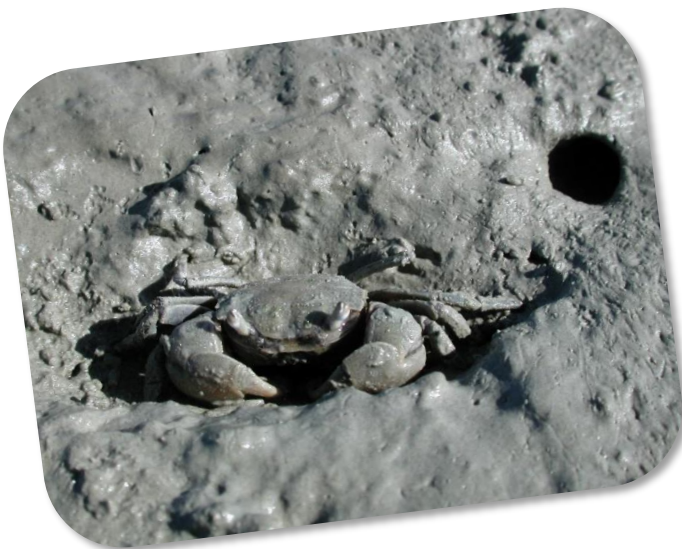


Image left: Wikimedia commons, marrutj (mud crab). Image right: Wikipedia, meme (box jellyfish)