



Teacher Resource

Welcome to Country

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. In your own words, explain what is a Welcome to Country is.
2. What is an Acknowledgement of Country?
3. What controversy has there been around Welcome to Country ceremonies recently?
4. Have you ever seen a Welcome to Country? Describe the ceremony in your own words.
5. What questions do you have about the Welcome to Country story?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Welcome to Country story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is a Welcome to Country?
- Who can perform a Welcome to Country?
- Have you ever seen a Welcome to Country ceremony?
- What do you know about the traditional owners of the land where you live?
- How do you say welcome in the Indigenous language local to your area?



Further investigation:

- What are some differences between Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country? When would each be used and why?
- How do ceremonies like Welcome to Country reflect Indigenous peoples' connection to the land?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about Welcome to Country ceremonies and the traditional custodians of the land where students live.

CURRICULUM

Geography - Year 3

The ways First Nations Australians in different parts of Australia are interconnected with Country/Place.

History – Year 3

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

History – Year 4

The diversity of First Nations Australians, their social organisation and their continuous connection to Country/Place.

Activity: Vocabulary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to Welcome to Country. Here are some words to get them started.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY	TRADITIONAL OWNERS	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
CEREMONY	ELDER	FIRST NATIONS

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

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.



Activity: 50 Words Project

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

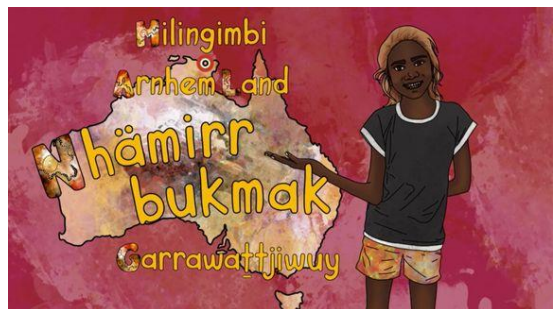
Around Australia, many places are known by their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names. Indigenous communities share the stories behind place names of their country in the [This Place](#) series. Do you know the meaning of the place names where you live?



Activity: Good Mornings

How would you greet someone in the language of the land on which you live? In these ABC Education videos, children from around Australia encourage you to join them as they share greetings in their Indigenous languages.

Meet Garrawattjiwuy and learn how to say hello in the local language in Arnhem Land. [Link to iView videos](#)



Activity: Recognise and Celebrate Indigenous Culture

Discuss with students, ways they can recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in their class or school. Some ideas are:



Have you held a Welcome to or Acknowledgement of Country at your school? Find out what the difference is between the two and why they are important in showing respect to and understanding First Nations people. Visit [Reconciliation Australia](#) for more info. [Read this ABC article](#) to find out why an Acknowledgement of Country is important (and advice on how to give one).



Create a bush food trail/Indigenous garden in your school. Find out if you have an Indigenous food trail near your school that you could visit for inspiration and to learn about Indigenous plants local to your area. Meet some kids in BTN's [Bush Tucker Garden](#) story to learn about growing traditional Aussie foods and cooking them as well.



Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who've made a difference and inspired others. Choose an Indigenous woman who inspires you and research in more detail. Share your findings with the class. Watch this BTN [NAIDOC Indigenous Women](#) story to learn more.



Learn more about the dreaming trails in your local area. Use the internet to find out if there are any dreaming trails in your area that explain the creation theories of the traditional owners of the land. Meet Rookie Reporter Tyrone in this [BTN story](#) to tell you what the river means to his people - the Ngarrindjeri.

Activity: BTN Welcome to Country

Watch the [BTN Welcome to Country story](#) and hear from rookie reporter Tiyana who helps to explain what a Welcome to Country ceremony is. Here are some questions for students to respond to:

- What is the language of Tiyana's family and people?
- Describe how Tiyana does a Welcome to Country.
- What does Tiyana wear during a Welcome to Country?
- What is an Acknowledgement of Country?
- How does Tiyana feel when she performs a Welcome to Country?



Useful Websites

- [Welcome to Country](#) – BTN
- [Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country](#) – Reconciliation Australia