



Teacher Resource

# Indigenous Seasons

## 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. How many seasons are on the Ngan'gi seasonal calendar?
2. What is one of the most important plants in the seasonal calendar?
3. What does the arrival of the dragonfly tell us?
  - a. the dry season is coming
  - b. the wet season is coming
4. What do the kids in the story like about the dry season?
5. What questions do you have about the story?

## Activity: Personal Response

After watching the Indigenous Seasons story students will respond to the following:

- What do you THINK about what you saw in the story?
- What did this story make you WONDER?
- Think of three questions you have about the BTN story.
- What more do you want to learn about Indigenous Seasons?

## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Indigenous Seasons story using the following discussion starters.

- How many Indigenous seasons can you name?
- Why might the ideas of the four seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter not always be useful in northern Australia?
- How are Indigenous seasons similar or different to Australia's European climate description?
- *Australia's climate is diverse.* In your own words explain what this means.



### EPISODE 16

7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate Indigenous seasonal calendars and learn more about the calendar in the area where they live.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Geography – Year 4

The custodial responsibility Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have for Country/Place, and how this influences views about sustainability.

##### Science – Year 7

Predictable phenomena on Earth, including seasons and eclipses, are caused by the relative positions of the sun, Earth and the moon.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Indigenous Seasons story. Here are some words to get them started.

SEASON	WEATHER	CLIMATE
INDICATOR	BUSH TUCKER	SEASONAL CALENDAR

## Activity: Indigenous Weather Knowledge

Students will visit the [Indigenous Weather Knowledge website](#) and select the Indigenous community closest to where they live. Students will explore the Indigenous seasonal knowledge relevant to their area and respond to the questions below.



- Community name
- Name the distinct weather seasons in your area.
- How many seasons does your calendar have?
- Describe the weather periods in your area. What things mark a change of season? What changes in plants and animals have you noticed at certain times of the year?
- Interesting things about this seasonal cycle.
- Highlight the area on a map. What areas does it cover?
- Compare the calendar from your region to a calendar from another region.

### **Further Investigation**

Invite a member of a local Indigenous community to your class to talk about the seasons in your area. Consider holding the information session in your school garden to help connect with the plants and animals local to your area.

## Activity: Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

### Children's Book

Write and illustrate a children's book about Indigenous seasons.

### Venn Diagram

Investigate how Indigenous seasons are similar or different to Australia's European climate description. Use a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles to record the similarities and differences.

### Bush Tucker Garden

Create a bush tucker garden at school or home. Consider the position of the garden, the type of soil and how much water the plants will need. Find edible plants that are native to the area.

### Make an Explainer

Create a short film to explain the seasonal calendar in your region. Watch this [BTN Explainer](#) as a class to learn more about filming tips and visit BTN's [Rookie Reporter webpage](#) for more training videos.



Watch the [Many Lands, Many Seasons series](#) which explores six Aboriginal seasonal calendars. Students can find out how unique knowledge helps the traditional owners hunt, fish and collect bush tucker. Learn more about the [Indigenous Seasonal Calendar on the CSIRO website](#).



[BTN Indigenous Seasons](#)



[BTN Bush Tucker Garden](#)

## Useful Websites

- [Indigenous Seasons](#) – BTN
- [Indigenous Seasonal Calendar](#) - CSIRO
- [Many Lands, Many Seasons](#) – iView
- [Indigenous Weather Knowledge](#) – BOM
- [Language, culture and environmental knowledge](#) - BOM