



Teacher Resource

Garma Festival 2023

Focus Questions

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

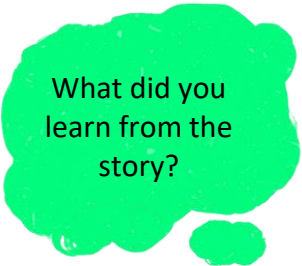
1. Where is the Garma Festival held? Find on a map.
2. Gulkula is a sacred site for the _____ people.
3. What is a bunguul?
4. What did the prime minister talk about at Garma?
5. What questions do you have about the BTN story?

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: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Garma Festival 2023 story in small groups or as a class. What questions do students 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 special announcement did the prime minister make at Garma?
- 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

8th August 2023

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the Yolngu people and the importance of the Garma Festival.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

Evaluate evidence to draw conclusions.

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.

The process for constitutional change through a referendum.

How groups, such as religious and cultural groups, express their particular identities; and how this influences their perceptions of others and vice versa.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Garma Festival 2023 story. The glossary will help inform students while working through the activities in this resource. Below are some words to get them started.

BUNGUUL	SACRED SITE	RECOGNITION
RIGHTS	INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT	AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES

Activity: Write a Feature Story

Students will imagine they are a journalist covering the Garma Festival 2023 and give insight into Aboriginal culture and heritage in Northeast Arnhem Land. Students will choose one aspect of the event that they are interested in writing about. Some possible topics include:

- Festival highlights including the bunguul (dance).
- What the festival showcases, including traditional miny'tji (art), manikay (song), bunggul (dance) and storytelling.
- The Prime Minister's speech.
- A profile on the Yothu Yindi Foundation, the festival organisers.

Students can use the following to guide them throughout the research and writing process:

- Research as much as you can about the topic.
- Add visuals, such as images (including artworks, photographs, or illustrations).
- Could you interview someone, like the prime minister or someone attending the event? Write some interview questions.
- Write a feature story – find out what makes a good feature story [here](#). Share your story.

Activity: The Yolngu

After watching the BTN Garma Festival 2023 story students will learn more about the Yolngu people, the traditional owners of Northeast Arnhem Land, including their language, culture, and traditions. Students will research and present on one of the following topics.

Yolngu Language

What is the language of the Yolngu people? Learn more about the different dialects.

Learn some [common Yolngu words](#). What does the word *Yolngu* mean?

Yolngu Seasonal Calendar

Why is the cycad tree the most important tree of all for the Yolngu people?

Learn more about the [Yolngu seasonal calendar](#), and the plants and animals that are important to the Yolngu people.

Indigenous Map of Australia

Where is Arnhem Land? Mark the approximate boundaries on a map. What are some special sites in Arnhem Land? Explore the [Indigenous Map of Australia](#) to learn more about the language, social or nation groups of Aboriginal Australia.

Yolngu Culture

In small groups students will research a specific aspect of Yolngu culture. Topics could include art and storytelling, ceremonial dances (Bunguul), traditional music (Yidaki), bush tucker, or Dreamtime stories.

Arnhem Land is the home of the *yidaki*. What is a yidaki and what is it used for? What role do termites play in the creation of a yidaki?

Important Yolngu People

Who are some well-known Yolngu leaders, artists, and performers? Choose one to explore and learn about their life and achievements. Write a profile about them.

Some well-known Yolngu people include: Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Yothu Yindi, Baker Boy, David Gulpilil, Guypunura "Janet" Munyarryun, Djal Gurruwiwi and Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu.

Land Rights

What is the Yirrkala bark petition? Use as many of these words in your explanation as possible: bauxite mine, bark petition, Gurindji people, Wave Hill, Whitlam Government and Aboriginal Land Rights act.

Learn more about the petition on the National Museum of Australia [website](#).

Activity: Further Investigation

Students will explore the cultural diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Individually or in small groups, students will learn about the Indigenous group where they live and present what they have learnt to the class. Students will learn about the geographic location, language, culture, traditions, and histories. Below are some questions to help guide their research.

Acknowledgement

Who are the traditional owners of the land on which your school stands? How can you acknowledge the traditional owners of the land?

Geography

What is the geographic location? Find on a map. Mark important Indigenous sites on your map. What are songlines and why they are important?

Language

What Indigenous language/s are spoken in your area? Learn more about the dreaming stories of the area. Illustrate an aspect of the dreaming story.

Environment

What is the Indigenous word for 'land' in this area? Learn about the land and waters of the area. What plants and animals in the region are important to the Indigenous people?

Activity: BTN Stories

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and issues.

After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).

[Collection of BTN stories about Indigenous culture](#)

Indigenous Culture



Reviving Indigenous Languages

Tue 21 Mar 2023 at 6:00am



Indigenous War Cry

The Unity Dance is a modern war cry that was developed to bring together and represent Australia's many Indigenous cultures and some would like to see it become a bigger part of Aussie sporting culture.



Heritage Protection Laws

Australia is home to some of the oldest and most significant cultural heritage sites in the world, but a new report says they're not being properly protected.



Charlotte from Warakurna - Heywire

Charlotte from Warakurna in Western Australia tells us what life is like in the bush.

Tue 6 Sep 2022 at 5:30am



Indigenous Seasons Part II

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have their own names and times for their seasons.

Tue 14 Jun 2022 at 5:30am



Tiwi Island Teen

We meet Maelitta from the Tiwi islands who's telling dreamtime stories with anime-inspired art.

Tue 24 Aug 2021 at 5:30am



Kaurua with Tiyana

We talk to 10-year-old Tiyana, who's helping to protect the Kaurua language.

Tue 23 Feb 2021 at 5:30am

Useful Websites

- [2023 Garma Festival](#) – Newsbreak
- [About Garma Festival](#) – Yothu Yindi Foundation
- [The Yolngu](#) – National Museum Australia
- [Garma Festival 2022](#) – BTN
- [Voice to Parliament Update](#) – BTN
- [1967 Referendum](#) – BTN
- [Prime Minister to announce Australia's first referendum in 20 years at Garma Festival. Here's what you might be asked](#) – ABC News