

FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES Challenge!

16-20
NOVEMBER

JOIN US FOR A WEEK
OF LEARNING AND
SHARING STORIES

INFORMATION PACK



LETTER FROM THE CEO



RONA GLYNN-MCDONALD
PROUD KAYTETYE WOMAN AND CEO,
COMMON GROUND FIRST NATIONS

LEARN FROM FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE. JOIN A WEEK OF STORYTELLING.

Did you know that 80% of Australians believe it's important to know about the cultures of our First Peoples? But how many of us have a good knowledge of these cultures?

We're working hard to fill this knowledge gap; to bring communities together and enrich Australia with the wisdom of the world's oldest cultures.

The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge is an initiative for everyone. It's especially great for young people because we map the content to the F-6 (primary school) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Histories curriculum! It's perfect to do together as a family, or even host an online watch party with friends. No matter your age, you'll get something out of it.

Sign up to get access to five short films. Each one is a Dreaming story, told by a knowledge custodian. Join people around the country and watch them over five days in November (16-20). You'll also receive a learning kit full of information on the meaning of the stories, the cultures and languages connected to them.

It's a unique and rare opportunity to hear these stories, told by the people who care for them, from the Country they belong to. A chance to close the gap of understanding between First Nations People and non-Indigenous Australians.

So please join us, for a week of totally unique storytelling, fun and learning.

Thank you.

JOIN THE CHALLENGE



WHO IS COMMON GROUND?

COMMON GROUND IS A FIRST NATIONS-LED NOT-FOR-PROFIT THAT SHARES FIRST NATIONS, CULTURES, HISTORIES AND LIVED EXPERIENCES.

We believe that knowledge and understanding is the key to equality and connection between people. We work with First Nations people and communities to record and share First Nations cultures, histories and lived experience. We work to mobilise Australians through amplifying voices, stories and knowledge that will help bridge gaps in knowledge and build a more united Australia.

Since launching in 2018, Common Ground has supported over 500,000 Australians to learn about First Nations culture, history and people, through its online channels

Piloted last year, the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge is designed to inspire people to come together over storytelling, and learn more about the cultures of our country.



JOIN THE CHALLENGE



THE CHALLENGE

THIS PACK CONTAINS INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS. WE EXPLAIN:

WHAT THE FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES CHALLENGE IS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

WHY THE FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES CHALLENGE IS IMPORTANT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE AND CULTURE

THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMING

HOW TO TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS IN CLASS

WHAT IS IT?

The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge is a fun way to learn more about First Nations cultures. Together, we can help bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and build a united future.

The initiative consists of five short films, each around five minutes. The films are shared online with participants over a week in November. This gives people everywhere the opportunity to watch five Dreaming stories told directly to them by First Nations knowledge custodians. These Dreaming stories are foundations of First Nations cultures, and will be told in a mix of both English and their original languages.

HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE?

The Challenge will take place from Monday, November 16 to Friday, November 20. During this week we ask classes, schools, families and individuals to watch five Dreaming stories over five days. If you'd prefer to watch them all at once, you can do that too.

To participate, just to sign up at firstnationsbedtimestories.com. Once you've signed up we'll send you everything you need.



JOIN THE CHALLENGE



THE CHALLENGE

WHY DO IT?

According to the 2018 Reconciliation Barometer Survey, around 80% of Australians believe it's important to know about the cultures of First Nations people. But how many of us have a good knowledge of these cultures?

Australia's First Nations cultures are largely misunderstood and under-appreciated by Australians. This lack of understanding contributes to fragile social ties between First Nations and non-Indigenous people. It's one of the root causes of inequality, lack of opportunity and detrimental outcomes for First Nations people in many areas including health, education and employment.

One of the best ways to help change this is through listening, learning and celebrating First Nations voices.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, storytelling is the means of teaching knowledge and histories to the younger generations. But few non-Indigenous Australians have the opportunity to hear from First Nations people, and these stories are at risk of being lost. Common Ground has been working to fix this, by recording and sharing the cultures, histories and lived experiences of First Nations peoples.

The First Nations Stories Challenge is a week of coming together to learn about these incredibly valuable cultures.

The money raised from the First Nations Stories Challenge will go towards the continued preservation of First Nations history and cultures around the country.

We work with knowledge custodians and communities to develop these stories and capture them on film. We distribute them to the community so they can own them forever.

THROUGH THIS CHALLENGE, COMMON GROUND AIMS TO:

1. CONTINUE RECORDING AND PRESERVING CULTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

2. SHARE THIS WITH EVERYONE, TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND VALUE OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE AND CULTURE.



JOIN THE CHALLENGE

HOW TO JOIN



1. REGISTER ONLINE AND CREATE YOUR PROFILE

Head to www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com - click 'sign up' and register your details.

2. MARK THE WEEK IN YOUR CALENDAR

The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge takes place on 16-20 November 2020, and we want everyone to get involved.

3. TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOU'RE DOING

Download images from the website, share them on social media or tell your friends about the Challenge.

4. DONATE OR FUNDRAISE

Share the unique web address (URL) of your profile page. People can donate directly to your profile page, or you can collect donations and then send them to your profile with a simple transfer (online or bank).

5. WATCH AND LEARN

Watch the stories alone, with your family, or host an online watch party. Use the learning kit we send you to strengthen your understanding of the films, start conversation with your kids or answer their questions. The learning kit will cover the meaning behind the stories, information about the cultures and languages connected to the stories and more.

6. AFTERWARDS

Send any funds you collected to your www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com profile page. You can send supporters directly to your profile page to donate themselves. Or collect cash, deposit it in your bank account and transfer the total amount to your profile page via your debit or credit card. (Just like when you make an online donation or purchase).

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HOW TO DONATE

YOU CAN RAISE FUNDS STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PROFILE PAGE ON THE FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES WEBSITE.

When you sign up, you will be asked to enter your details. This creates your very own profile page to access via www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com

Share the website address of your profile page with your networks. They can donate with the click of a button.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP! WE CAN GIVE YOU:

Resources and materials about First Nations People, Dreaming stories and lesson plans

Use of our logo on authorised promotional material

Tax receipts to donors

A Letter of Authority to show that your event has our approval and is genuine

A certificate of appreciation once your fundraiser has finished

UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT PROVIDE:

Funds or reimbursement for any expenses incurred

Assistance in organising and/or marketing your event

Staff to help coordinate or run the event

Contact lists for you to use in promoting your event (due to privacy legislation)

Applications for permits, licences or insurances (including public liability) required (these are the responsibility of the organiser)

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WHAT'S THE RIGHT TERM?

LANGUAGE MATTERS!

The following terms have come to take on different meanings to different people, wrapped in the history and politics of the time.

We understand knowing what to say and how to say it can be hard, but a little effort can go a long way. The words we use are a powerful tool, and have a profound effect on the views and perceptions of those who receive them, and the people they are about.

The best thing to do is to respect the right of an individual or group to determine the words they prefer to be used.

'ABORIGINAL' AND 'TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER' PEOPLES

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups prefer to be known by these titles over any others.

'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' are two different groups of peoples. Aboriginal refers to the original peoples of mainland Australia. Torres Strait Islander refers to the original peoples of the 274 islands located north of Australia, in the Torres Strait.

When referring to either 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islanders', however, it's important to include 'People' at the end, as alone, the terms could be considered adjectives, and not humanised.



WHATS THE RIGHT TERM?

ABORIGINE

The term 'Aborigine' was commonly used up until about the 1960s but is now generally regarded as outdated and extremely inappropriate.

INDIGENOUS

'Indigenous' has become a popular, catch-all term to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, it is important to recognise why some people don't like it.

'Indigenous' means 'belonging or occurring naturally in a particular place'. It is used across the world to describe all first peoples - and even flora and fauna. Therefore, it does not respect the unique and diverse cultures of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. But context is important. For example, many well regarded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, academics and organisations use the term 'Indigenous' or 'Indigenous Australians'. If the audience you serve is confident you understand and are respectful of the diverse, rich cultures, the term can still be used appropriately.

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WHAT'S THE RIGHT TERM?

FIRST AUSTRALIANS

In recent years, 'First Australians' has been adopted as a name that recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples of Australia.

Where 'Aboriginal' and 'Indigenous' don't represent the unique cultures of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, using the term 'First Australians' can overcome this. While its use is less popular than many of the other terms described above, many have recognised it as their preferred term. However, some don't agree with the reference to 'Australia', as the first people existed before 'Australia' came to be.

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

Similarly to above ('First Australians'), 'First Nations' recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the sovereign people of this land. It goes further than 'First Australians' as it recognises various language groups as separate and unique sovereign nations. It is widely used to describe the First Peoples in Canada and other countries across the globe.

Over recent years, the use of this term has grown in popularity. It is often considered a better choice than many outdated and offensive terms described above. At Common Ground, First Nations people is the term we prefer to use.



DREAMING STORIES

THE 'DREAMING', OR THE 'DREAMTIME', IS AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD AND ITS CREATION, SHARED BY FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE. PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS, THESE STORIES COMMONLY FEATURE EXAMPLES OF HOW TO BEHAVE OR HOW NOT TO BEHAVE. IN THIS WAY, THE DREAMING TEACHES MORALS FOR LIVING AND INTERACTING WITH THE NATURAL WORLD.

JUKURRPA

'The Dreaming' is an English word for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concept. This is known as Jukurrpa in the Warlpiri language of Central Australia, though has different titles for different language groups. Dreaming stories are linked to specific places, for example landmarks, bodies of water, and the stars. They explain the connection between First Nations People, and the land, animals and plants.

'The Dreaming' is considered to be only a rough translation of Jukurrpa, due to how complex its true meaning is.

EVERYWHEN

The Dreaming did not only take place at the beginning of time - it includes the past, present, and future. It is an integrated way of life that many First Nations people believe in to this day.

In his 1956 essay 'The Dreaming', the Australian anthropologist W.E.H. Stanner coined the term 'everywhen' to describe this idea:

"One cannot 'fix' The Dreaming in time: it was, and is, everywhen."

NARRATIVES

The stories may differ from place to place, but they have common features. For example, many creation narratives feature Ancestral Beings, who created everything - animals, plants, rocks, and land formations - as they moved through the land in human form. They also created a system of relationships between the individual, the land, animals, and other people. The Ancestral Beings are models for human and non-human activity, behaviour and morals.

WHAT'S NEXT?

IF YOU SIGN UP, COMMON GROUND WILL SEND YOU A LEARNING KIT IN THE WEEK OF 19 OCTOBER.

IT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE STORIES, THE CULTURES AND LANGUAGES CONNECTED TO THEM, BACKGROUND INFORMATION, AND PROMPTS TO HELP YOU HAVE CONVERSATIONS

THE LEARNING KIT WILL CONTAIN:

Content mapped
to the F-6 Australian Curriculum

Explanations of the stories in the context of culture and history

Ideas for further learning

Activities to do

Curriculum Mapping F- 6:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

This Curriculum priority provides opportunities for all students to deepen their knowledge of Australia by engaging with the world's oldest continuous living cultures. Through this, students will understand that contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are strong, resilient, rich and diverse. The framework comprises the underlying elements of Identity and Living Communities and the key concepts of Country/Place, Culture and People. — Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.

Throughout the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge we represent First Nations identities through knowledge and stories that develop an understanding of the interconnected elements of Country/Place, Culture and People. The stories will allow students to develop knowledge about First Nations Peoples' Lore, languages, dialects and literacies through the exploration of diverse First Nations Cultures. These relationships are linked to the deep knowledge traditions and holistic world views of Aboriginal communities and or Torres Strait Islander communities. Through participating in the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge students will understand that Identities and Cultures have been, and are, a source of strength and resilience for Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples against the historic and contemporary impacts of colonisation.

JOIN THE CHALLENGE





CONTACT US

For more information on how to participate in the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge, contact us at:

Email firstnations@commonground.org.au
Website www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com
Instagram [@commongroundaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/commongroundaustralia)