

FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES Challenge!

Learn from first nations people.

Join a week of storytelling.



COMMONGROUND



FIRST NATIONS
BEDTIME STORIES
Challenge!

**INFORMATION PACK
FOR SCHOOLS**

LETTER FROM THE CEO

As a teacher, you shape our country's young minds every day. Which is why Common Ground needs you.

Did you know that 80% of Australians – including parents – 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?

At Common Ground 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. We've travelled the country to capture stories and now we need teachers like you to help us share them...

**Challenge yourself. Challenge your class.
Help preserve Australia's First Nations stories for the next generations.**

The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge is a new fundraising initiative that's easy, fun and educational – where kids and families come together to watch and learn from stories that are 80,000 years in the making.

Five stories to be watched online, over five days.

It's a chance to connect with one another and learn about Australia's land, animals, people and culture. A chance to close the gap of understanding between First Nations People and non-Indigenous Australians.

**We've made it teacher friendly. (You're busy enough already!)
Click [here](#) to start our easy three-step process.**

Step 1: Join the challenge now and set up your fundraising page

Step 2: Use the tools provided to engage your students and promote the challenge

Step 3: Wait to watch the first story, which will arrive to your inbox and fundraising page on June 17!

As a teacher, you're key to building a united Australia that embraces First Nations people. Please, help share First Nations cultures with the young people of today and tomorrow.

Register [here](#) to join the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge today!

Thank you,

Rona Glynn-McDonald
Proud Kaytetye woman and CEO,
Common Ground First Nations



PS: If, after reading this kit you have any questions, please contact me at firstnations@commonground.org.au. We look forward to sharing and celebrating First Nations cultures with you in June 2019. Register [here](#) now!

GUIDE TO JOINING THE BEDTIME STORIES CHALLENGE



1. REGISTER ONLINE AND CREATE YOUR PROFILE

Head to www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com and fill out the registration form to sign up.

2. MARK THE WEEK IN YOUR CALENDAR

The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge takes place on 17-21 June 2019, and we want everyone to get involved. Get ready, and get excited!

3. TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOU'RE DOING

Download posters from our website, put them up around your school and publish them in your school newsletter a few weeks before the event.

4. INCLUDE OUR LESSON PLANS IN YOUR CLASSROOM PLAN

On the 27th May, we will send out learning guides to help you add the stories into your classroom work.

5. COLLECT DONATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Your supporters can donate directly to your fundraising page, or you can collect donations during school hours and then send them to your online profile.

6. LEARN FROM THE STORIES!

Watch the stories together and talk about them in class, at home and with friends. Be part of the movement towards a more united future.

7. AFTERWARDS

Send the funds to your www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com profile page. You can either send supporters directly to your profile page to donate, or collect cash, deposit it in your bank account and transfer to your page via your debit or credit card. There will be cool prizes for those that fundraise the most!

Your support will help Common Ground to continue preserving First Nations stories for future generations.

WHAT IS COMMON GROUND?

Common Ground is an Aboriginal-led organisation that shares First Nations stories, cultures, histories and lived experiences.

We believe that knowledge and understanding of different cultures creates respect and friendship between people. Through creating educational resources, sharing knowledge and stories, and empowering First Nations people to connect with their wider community, Common Ground aims to create a united Australia that celebrates and embraces our First Nations people.

Since launching in 2018, Common Ground has supported over 55,000 Australians to learn about our First Peoples, through the Common Ground website and social media.

To ensure we can reach even more Australians, Common Ground is launching a new initiative in 2019: The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge.

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge aims to inspire kids and their parents to connect over bedtime stories and learn more about the culture of our First Peoples, through a week of storytelling in June 2019. *Jukurrpa* (dreamtime) stories told by Aboriginal elders will be shared on film, together with learning materials for teachers, parents and children, to increase Australian's understanding of First Nations cultures and languages.



HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE?

From June 17-21, one video story will be published on the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge website each day by 8am. You and your class can watch the story at any time during the school day. You may like to watch it at the start of the day during roll call, during leisure time, or incorporate it into a lesson like history.

On the 27th May, Common Ground will send you a second information pack with ideas on how to incorporate the stories into your day, plus learning materials to support the stories that align with key learning outcomes.

If for some reason your school or class can't participate during school hours, you can instead encourage students to watch the stories at home with their families, and discuss them as a class the next day.

HOW TO BANK YOUR FUNDS



You can raise funds straight from your profile page on the First Nations Bedtime stories website. Simply share your profile with your community and they can donate directly to your page with the click of a button.

Alternatively, you can collect cash throughout your fundraising and deposit it into your bank account. Then make a debit transfer to your profile page on the First Nations Bedtime Stories website.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

We can give you:

- ✓ Resources and materials about First Nations People, Dreamtime stories and lesson plans
- ✓ Use of our community 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

Please note depending on the size and location of your event support and resources will vary.

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)

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information on joining the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge, contact us:

Email:

firstnations@commonground.org.au

Web:

www.firstnationsbedtimestories.com

INTRODUCTION

This kit contains info for teachers, explaining the launch of Common Ground's First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge. It also has background info on First Nations People, the importance of Dreamtime, and how to talk about these things in the classroom.

WHY THE FIRST NATIONS BEDTIME STORIES CHALLENGE?

According to the 2018 Reconciliation Barometer Survey, around 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?

Australia's First Nations cultures are under appreciated and misunderstood by many non-Indigenous Australians. This lack of understanding contributes to fragile social ties between our First Peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, and also affects the self-esteem of our First Peoples.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, storytelling is the means of teaching knowledge and histories to the younger generation. But few non-Indigenous Australians have the opportunity to hear from our First Peoples, 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 Bedtime Stories Challenge is a week of truth telling, that

challenges schools and families to enjoy a week of learning about First Nations stories, gathering together to hear First Nations stories told by First Nations people.

The challenge will inspire children and parents to connect over bedtime stories while learning more about the cultures of our First Peoples. Through the week, we will share five *Jukurrpa* (dreamtime) stories told by Aboriginal elders. The stories will bring to life the Aboriginal stories handed down from generation to generation and will introduce a few new Aboriginal words. The United Nations has declared 2019 the Year of Indigenous Languages - so it is also an opportunity to raise awareness of these languages.

The money raised from the First Nations Bedtime Stories Challenge will go towards the continued preservation of First Nations history and culture around the country. This includes recording more dreamtime stories to share with the Australian community, empowering First Nations people to connect and share their wisdom with all of Australia.

Through this challenge, Common Ground aims to:

1. Continue recording and preserving culture for the next generations.
2. Share this with everyone, to increase understanding and value of First Nations people and culture.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES, ABORIGINE, INDIGENOUS, FIRST AUSTRALIANS OR FIRST NATIONS...

WHAT'S THE RIGHT TERM?



These terms have come to take on different meanings to different people, wrapped in the history and politics of the time. But what's the right term? There's not a single 'correct' term, but some are considered better to use than others. It's helpful to understand why that's the case. In the end, it's important to be respectful of what individuals, families, or communities prefer, and allow them to define what they are most comfortable with.

'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.

ABORIGINE

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

INDIGENOUS

In Australia, 'Indigenous' has become a popular, catch-all term to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. While this can be practical, it is important to recognise why some people don't like this term.



The true meaning of ‘Indigenous’ means ‘belonging or occurring naturally in a particular place’ (Oxford Dictionary). It is used across the world to describe all first peoples (native people) and even flora and fauna. Because of this, 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 that you understand and are respectful of the diverse, rich cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the term can still be used appropriately.

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 a better choice than many outdated and offensive terms described above. At Common Ground, First Nations People is the term we prefer to use.

As you can see, language matters - but it’s complicated! In the end, it’s important to be respectful of what the individuals, families, or communities you engage with prefer, and allow them to define what they are most comfortable with.

THE IMPORTANCE OF JUKURRPA (DREAMTIME) 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 characters who display bad behaviours, and face consequences because of it. In this way, the Dreaming teaches rules 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. Dreamtime 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 Dreamtime 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 the Warlpiri 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?

Common Ground will be sending out a second information pack on the 27th May with lesson plans to help you share the stories with your students. The stories that will be released during the week of the First Nations Bedtime stories challenge will align with key learning outcomes for primary school students. The stories will help your school to engage students in their education, while exploring the culture of First Nations People.

The second information pack will contain:

- ✓ Lesson plans for your class mapped to the Australian Curriculum
- ✓ Links to the *Jukurpa* stories and explanations of the stories
- ✓ Ideas for further learning
- ✓ Tips on how to get the most out of your fundraising

Curriculum Mapping F- 6: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures Australian 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures priority uses a conceptual framework to provide a context for learning. 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 sharing 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' law, 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.



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)

Sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and lived experiences. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia, and pay respect to all Elders - past, present and emerging. This space may contain voices, images or names of deceased people in photographs, film or printed material. ©



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