



Author: Larry Brandy

Illustrator: Kristie Peters & Scott Towney

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Blurb

The Wiradjuri are the people of the three bila (rivers) and their nguram-bang (Country) is the second largest in Australia. Come with Uncle Larry Brandy on an enlightening journey through his Country's rivers, woodlands, grasslands and rocky outcrops, as well as the murri-yang (sky world). Along the way, young readers will encounter animals such as bila-durang (platypus), and maliyan (wedge-tailed eagle), plants like the maybal (grass tree) and yirany (yam daisy), and discover stories like that of Tiddalik the giant frog. They will learn how Wiradjuri people lived on their Country, using the flower spikes of the grass tree as spears, soaking its flowers in water to make a sweet drink and weaving its leaves into baskets.

Further Resources

Wiradjuri Country Book Launch

Join Author and Storyteller Larry Brandy as he shares a passage from *Wiradjuri Country*. Hear the full story of 'How The Sun Was Made', learn about the importance of preserving language, and watch a wamar demonstration.

nla.gov.au/stories/video/book-launch-wiradjuri-country

Larry Brandy: Aboriginal Storyteller

aboriginalstoryteller.com.au

Wiradjuri Country

Teachers Notes

Recommended for: Mid to Upper Primary

There are many ways Wiradjuri people connect to their Country; this is Larry Brandy's. Research a famous Wiradjuri person (for example, Yvonne Goolagong Cawley, Latrell Mitchell, Linda Burney, Anita Heiss, Stan Grant, etc.). Create a poster about their life and achievements. Can you find anything they've said about their experience of being Wiradjuri?

Choose a Dreaming story from the book. What is the message of the story? Think about the characteristics of your favourite native animal. Write your own story about that animal that teaches a message.

Look at the native vegetation around where you live/study. Pick a plant and research how it has been used by First Nations peoples by searching online or talking to a local Elder. Wiradjuri children were taught 'what was good to eat or hunt, what was good for medicine and what was poisonous'. Can you find examples of these three things in the bush near you?

Pick a habitat from the book and make a list of all the ways Wiradjuri people made use of the plants, animals and natural features of the land. Think about how these habitats are changing or have changed. Which cultural practices are no longer possible? What do you think should be done to preserve your chosen habitat?

Larry mentions many of the different things Wiradjuri people made and continue to make using natural materials, from skin lotions to bark canoes. Create an artefact using a technique described in the book from natural materials in your garden or school yard. What is the purpose of the artefact?

This book was designed by Waanyi & Kalkadoon woman Keisha Thomason. Look closely at the design elements Keisha has used: textured background, circles, colour schemes and patterns. What do you think her inspiration was for the designs of each habitat? Design a scheme for a different habitat or ecoregion—snowfields, mountains, desert, etc.—in your own way. What colours will you choose? Which patterns best represent the environment?

Write a story using 15 Wiradjuri words from the wordlist. Read your story to the class and see who can find out what the words mean, using the action and description in your story as clues. Your teacher could write her own story and have the class play a game of Wiradjuri word bingo.

Whose Country are you on? What is the language spoken by First Nations Australians where you live? Refer to [AIATSIS' map of Indigenous Australia](https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia) (<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>) or contact your local council. Create a double-page poster featuring one animal, one plant and one story that connects to your local area. Include the same type of information Larry Brandy includes.

Look at the illustrations on the Dreaming story pages and the front and back covers. These were done by Wiradjuri artist Kristie Peters. Choose a different animal from the book and draw it in your own style.

Look up at the night sky. Can you see the animals the Wiradjuri people see? Can you see any other animals? The constellation illustrations in the book were done by Wiradjuri artist Scott 'Sauce' Towney. Select a star group and draw your own night sky pictures in your own style.