



Wiradjuri Workbook NGUMBAY

Sounds, Numbers, People & Family

Developed by Diane Riley-McNaboe & Lynette Riley

Yaama!

(Hello!)

Camp with land symbols inside the circles, showing people on their Country

We acknowledge that the learnings we reproduce here have come from the teachings of our Elders – our grand-parents, parents, aunts and uncles, without whom we would not have the cultural learning we are now able to present to you.

We pay homage and respect to all our Elders on our Countries – we are Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi – and we pay respect to the Elders on whichever Nation and Country you are on today, reading this workbook.

The Wiradjuri language used in this book has originally come from the dictionary developed by Uncle Stan Grant (Snr) and Dr John Rudder, without whom our Wiradjuri Language would not have been documented for our ongoing teaching and learning.

The Wiradjuri language for this workbook has also been developed by Diane Riley-McNaboe in her learnings and teachings of the Wiradjuri language.

The artworks used in this workbook for the symbols and tracks have been reproduced from the artwork used in the Kangaroo Cloaks created by Lynette Riley.

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Purpose of the Workbook

This workbook was developed during the coronavirus pandemic, which caused so many families to be unable to spend time together. We thought it was important to maintain cultural contact. Even though this workbook is written using the Wiradjuri language and symbols, we hope that all can enjoy and use it as activities to connect children, parents and families together, whilst learning a little about Wiradjuri culture, through our language, symbols and tracks.

Diane Riley-McNaboe & Lynette Riley © 2022

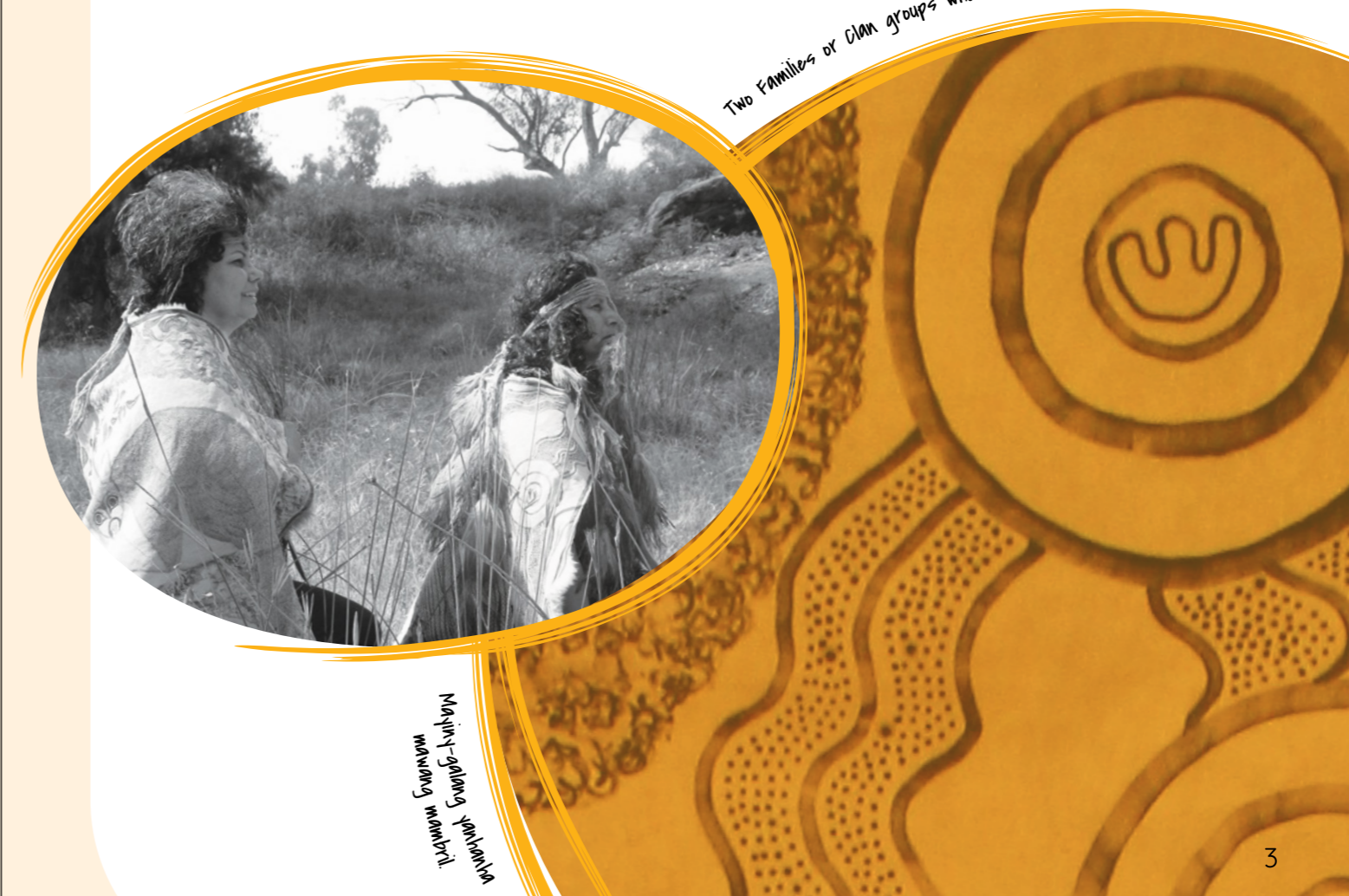
Authors & Artists

Dr Lynette Riley & Diane Riley-McNaboe

Lynette and Diane are Dubbo-born sisters, from both Wiradjuri (Dubbo) and Gamilaroi (Moree) Nations, who have made significant contributions to the continuation, study and celebration of their Wiradjuri culture. Both are teachers and work predominantly within the field of education (Lynette is at Sydney University, Diane is based in Dubbo, and works across schools and community).

They are especially keen to assist young people to engage with Aboriginal culture and to offer possibilities for Aboriginal peoples to access educational opportunities.

Photo taken by Kadeisha Langman 2012



Two Families or Clan groups who have Kinship connections.

*Marij-galang
mawang mawakir*



NGUMBAAY

Sounds, Numbers, People & Family

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How to Use This Workbook

The workbook has been designed to allow the best opportunities to learn Wiradjuri language and culture through games and other learning activities.

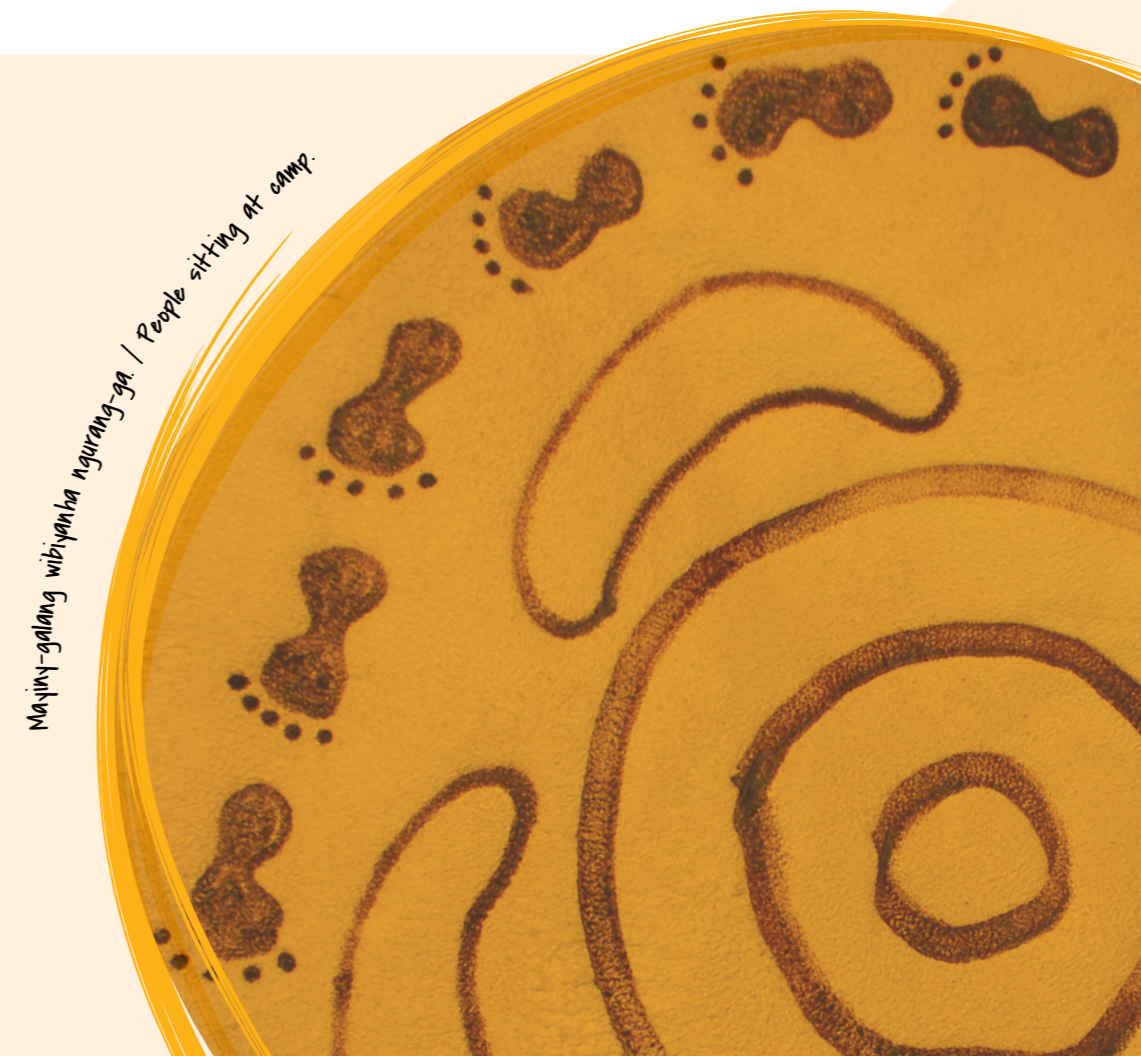
We suggest:

1. Wiradjuri language words are often in a grey colour - where this occurs, trace these words with a brightly coloured pencil or pen, as this helps to learn these words.
2. There are a number of activities listed, but there may not be sufficient room in the workbook to complete an activity, or you may like to repeat the activity using other items, or add extra things you have found. We suggest the use of a scrapbook to use alongside the workbook, to allow you to keep all your activities and drawings together.

Enjoy and have fun!



This project was developed in partnership with SBS.



Wiradjuri - Sounds & Words

! Yamandhu winhanganha! (Did you know!)

English Sounds that are "Not" in the Wiradjuri Language

- c
- o
- v
- e
- p
- x
- f
- q
- z
- k
- s

Note
There is an appendix at the end of this workbook on Wiradjuri 'Sounds at a Glance' with a guide on how to pronounce Wiradjuri words.

j (We do have a '-j' but mainly through English interference or unvoiced neighbouring Nations married into Wiradjuri (An example is Wiradjuri with a '-j'.)

Wiradjuri have no words which start with the letter 'h'. Instead we have words which start with 'dh' or 'nh'.

Activity How many English words can you find that start with the letter 'h' and then replace them with 'dh' or 'nh'.

For example: hat - dhat or nhat; hop - dhop or nhop

Wiradjuri - Greetings

! Yamandhu winhanganha! (Did you know!)

Being able to follow cultural protocols in greeting people is a very important skill in Wiradjuri culture. The following are appropriate greetings and introductions.

Wiradjuri Greetings & Introductions	English Translation
Yaama!	Hello!
Yiradhu marang!	Day good! or Day good!
Ngadhu yuwin _____.	I'm named _____.
Yuwin-dhu _____.	Name-I _____.
Dhaga ngindhu-dhi?	Where you-from? or Where are you from?
Minyang nginhu miyagan yuwin?	What is your family name?
Minyang nginhu yuwin?	What's your name?
Dhaga marra nginhu miyagan yanhanha-dhi?	Where does your family come from?
Ngadhu winya-dha _____.	I live-in _____.
Ngadhu-dhuray miyagan bidhi. Ngadhu-dhuray miyagan bubay.	I-have family big. or I have a big family. I-have family small. Or I have a small family.
Ngadhi wirimbildhaany-gu yuwin _____.	My carer's name is _____.
Yamandhu marang?	Are you well? or Are you good?

Activity Practice saying the greetings and introductions above.

Wiradjuri Greetings & Introductions



Trace over the Wiradjuri question /statements /sentences.

Yaama!
Yiradhu marang!
Ngadhu yuwin _____.
Yuwin-dhu _____.
Dhaga ngindhu-dhi?
Minyang nginhu miyagan yuwin?
Minyang nginhu yuwin?
Dhaga marra nginhu miyagan yanhanha-dhi?
Ngadhu winya-dha _____.
Ngadhu-dhuray miyagan bidhi. Ngadhu-dhuray miyagan bubay.
Ngadhi wirimbildhaany-gu yuwin _____.
Yamandhu marang?

Word Bank for Greetings & Introductions

Wiradjuri	English translation
yaama!	hello!
yiradhu	day
marang	good
yuwin	name
ngadhu or -dhu (suffix)	I
dhaga	where or where at
ngindhu	you
ngadhi or -dhi (suffix)	my or mine
minyang	what or what is
nginhu	your
marra	do, make five or hand

Wiradjuri	English translation
miyagan	family
wirimbildhaany	carer
-gu (suffix)	to, towards, for or ownership
-bu (suffix)	and or also
bubay	small
bidhi	big
-dhuray	-have
winya	live
-dha (suffix)	at, on, in or by something
yanhanha	come, go or walk
Yamandhu marang?	Are you _____? (well or good)

An Acknowledgement of Country

Being able to follow protocol in Acknowledging Country is very important. Aunty Di has provided the following Wiradjuri 'Acknowledgement of Country' for your use.

Example of:

Gulbarra Ngurambang-gu

Acknowledgement of Country

Yuwin-dhu _____ → I'm named _____

Ngadhu banhi-gu

I'd like to

gulbarra

acknowledge

Wiradjuri

Wiradjuri

mayiny-galang

people

ngan.gu

whose

Ngurambang-ga

Traditional /special country (in)

nginha

this

ngan.girra

assembly /meeting

dhurinya

being

gayi-dhi

held-on

Mandaang guwu ngaanha-gu!

Thank you for listening!

Wiradjuri vowel sounds:

a	like in a o ut
i	like in pi t
u	like pu t

aa	like in fa th er
ii	like in bea n
uu	like in pa w

Practice writing the 'Acknowledgement of Country'

Yuwin-dhu _____
(place your name here)

Ngadhu banhi-gu gulbarra

Wiradjuri mayiny-galang ngan.gu

Ngurambang-ga nginha ngan.girra

Dhurinya gayi-dhi. Mandaang guwu ngaanha-gu!

Wiradjuri - Numbers & Counting

! Yamandhu winhanganha! (Did you know!)

Wiradjuri Counting System - Warruyarra - is a base five counting system in which we count in groups of five.

1 ngumbaay



2 bula



3 bula-ngumbaay



4 bungu



5 marra



Activity

Draw pictures of groups of animals for each number below.

NGUMBAAY

BULA

BULA-
NGUMBAAY

BUNGU

MARRA

Note

Don't forget to trace the grey words with a bright coloured pencil or pen

We use our hand /marra and foot /dhina to count fingers /garrigaan and toes /burrami.

6 marra ngumbaay



7 marra bula



8 marra bula-ngumbaay



9 marra bungu



10 marra marra



Activity

Draw pictures of groups of fruit for each number below.

MARRA
NGUMBAAY

MARRA
BULA











MARRA
BULA-NGUMBAAY

MARRA BUNGU

MARRA MARRA

Wiradjuri - Numbers & Counting

! Yamandhu winhanganha! (Did you know!)

11 marra marra ngumbaay 	16 dhina marra marra ngumbaay 
12 marra marra bula 	17 dhina marra marra bula 
13 marra marra bula-ngumbaay 	18 dhina marra marra bula-ngumbaay 
14 marra marra bungu 	19 dhina marra marra bungu 
15 dhina marra marra 	20 dhina dhina marra marra 

Most Aboriginal language groups count in groups of five.

Some groups traditionally only go from one to four, then lots after that. The main reason is that person/people, places or things/items have an identity, a relationship to things around them and connection/s to Country. So for our people it is our personal relationship which is important, not how many things there are.

Note
Once you get to twenty it is lots - **madhu** - after that. We do not count more than this as it takes the identity and relationship to things away.

Activity Write the number below in Wiradjuri.

15		16	
11		13	
19		17	

Activity Sing this song, putting in the Wiradjuri number.



1.	2.	3.
----	----	----

-ay, -ay, -ay ('ay' like in play)

4.	5.	6.
----	----	----

-aay, -aay, -aay ('ie' like in pie)

7.	8.	9.
----	----	----

-uy, -uy, -uy ('oy' like in boy)

10.	11.	12.
-----	-----	-----

-any, -any, -any ('ain' like in gain)

13.	14.	15.
-----	-----	-----

-aany, -aany, -aany ('ine' like in dine)

16.	17.	18.
-----	-----	-----

-ang, -ang, -ang ('ung' like in rung)

19.	20.	21.
-----	-----	-----

-uny, -uny, -uny ('oin' like in coin)



Join the English number to the correct Wiradjuri number.

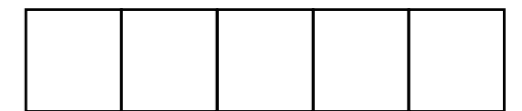
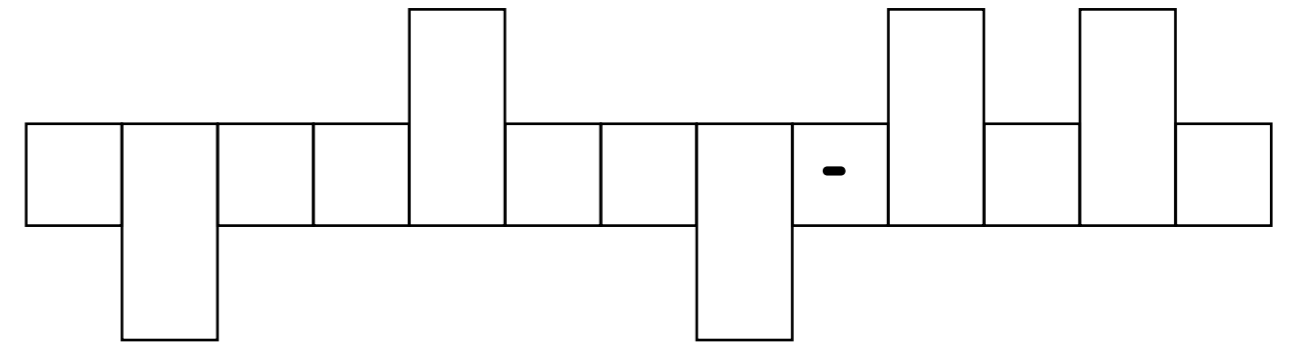
1. One	marra marra ngumbaay
2. Two	marra ngumbaay
3. Three	dhina marra marra bungu
4. Four	marra marra bungu
5. Five	marra marra
6. Six	marra marra bula
7. Seven	ngumbaay
8. Eight	dhina marra marra bula
9. Nine	marra bula ngumbaay
10. Ten	bula ngumbaay
11. Eleven	marra
12. Twelve	dhina marra marra ngumbaay
13. Thirteen	bula
14. Fourteen	marra bula
15. Fifteen	dhina dhina marra marra
16. Sixteen	dhina marra marra bula ngumbaay
17. Seventeen	bungu
18. Eighteen	marra marra bula ngumbaay
19. Nineteen	marra bungu
20. Twenty	dhina marra marra

Wiradjuri Number Activities



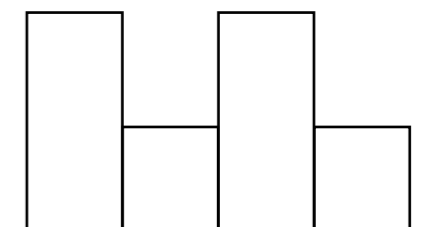
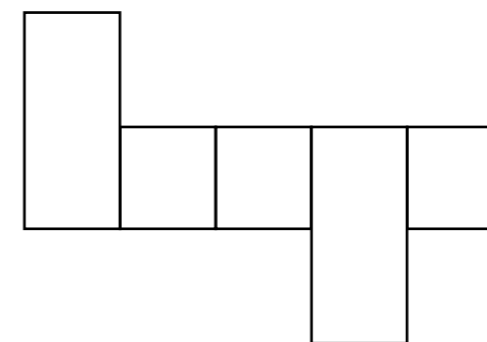
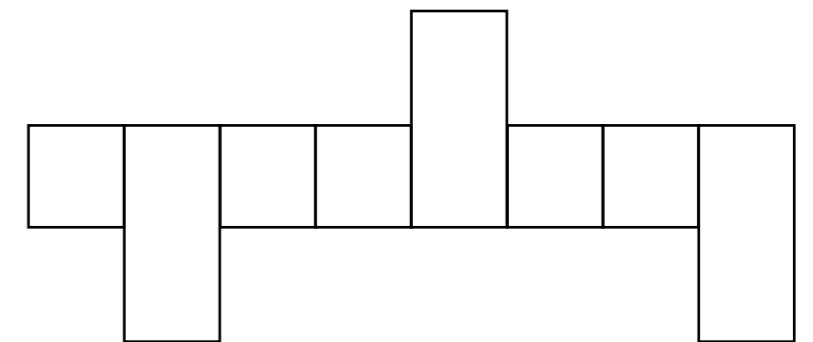
Counting 1 to 5 / Warruyarra

Write the correct number words in the spaces below. Keep the tall letters tall and the hanging down letters with tails low.



Key

- 1 - ngumbaay
- 2 - bula
- 3 - bula ngumbaay
- 4 - bungu
- 5 - marra





Wiradjuri Number Crossword Puzzle

m	a	r	r	a	b	u	l	a	n	g	u	m	b	a	a	y
a	i	b	u	l	a	n	g	u	m	b	a	a	y	i	b	u
r	b	n	m	a	r	r	a	b	u	n	g	u	b	r	y	r
r	m	a	r	r	a	n	g	u	m	b	a	a	y	g	a	a
a	m	a	r	r	a	b	u	l	a	m	a	r	r	a	a	l
b	u	i	y	m	a	r	r	a	m	a	r	r	a	u	b	u
u	m	m	a	r	r	a	n	g	u	m	b	a	a	y	m	b
n	g	u	r	u	i	y	a	a	b	m	u	g	n	g	u	a
g	m	a	r	r	a	m	a	r	r	a	l	g	r	n	g	r
u	i	m	a	r	r	a	b	u	l	a	a	i	g	u	n	r
n	g	u	m	b	a	a	y	n	i	g	m	u	g	n	i	a
b	u	l	a	n	g	u	m	b	a	a	y	a	r	r	a	m

- 1 ngumbaay
- 2 bula
- 3 bula ngumbaay
- 4 bungu
- 5 marra
- 6 marra ngumbaay
- 7 marra bula
- 8 marra bula ngumbaay
- 9 marra bungu
- 10 marra marra

Note
Please note numbers may appear more than once.
See how many you can find.



Unjumble the Wiradjuri number words:

- 1 ngumbaay
- 2 bula
- 3 bula ngumbaay
- 4 bungu
- 5 marra
- 6 marra ngumbaay
- 7 marra bula
- 8 marra bula ngumbaay
- 9 marra bungu
- 10 marra marra

labu	
raram lbua	
marar baul ngaayumb	
umngaayb	
ramra	
laub aaybngmu	
arram ungub	
mrara gnmubaya	
marar arram	
gunbu	

Wiradjuri - Symbols & Tracks

Mambriil-bu Murru-bu

Footprints / baayi or footsteps / baala

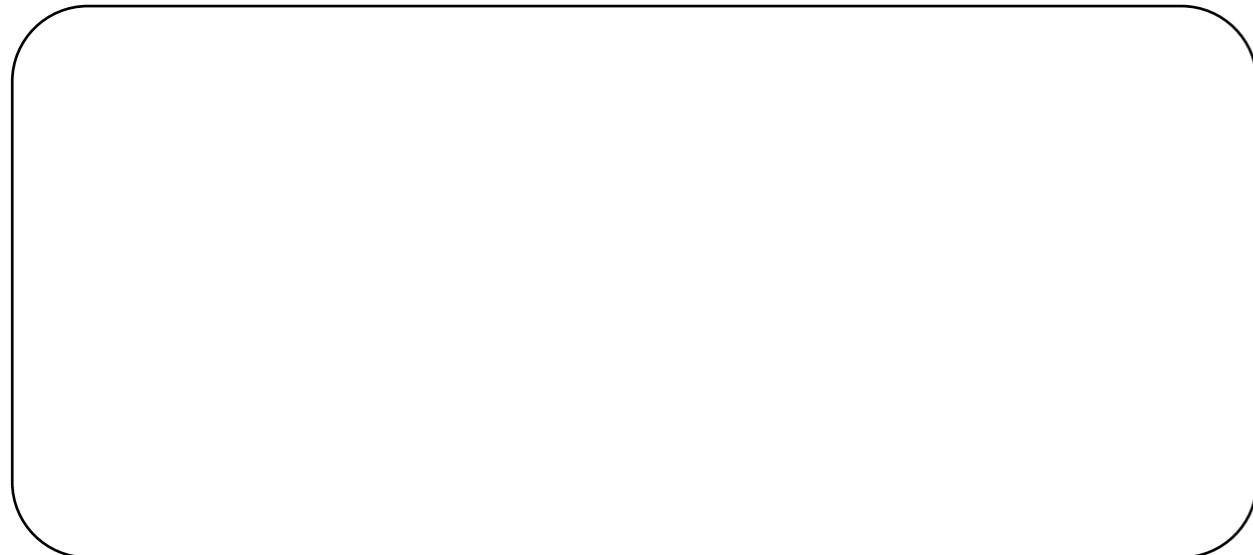


Footprints are drawn with the left foot and right foot having an arch on the inside of the foot, make sure you draw five toes, where the big toe is bigger, and the toes get smaller in size going to the outside of the foot.

If someone is walking the footprints have to be one in front of the other facing the direction they are walking. Footprints together, as in the image above are standing in the one spot.

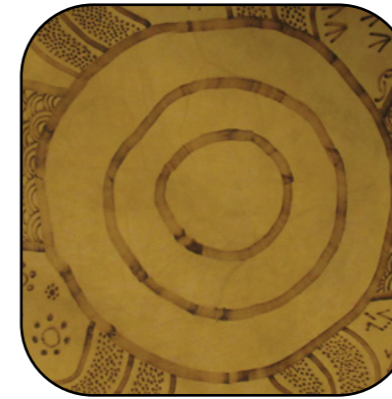
Activity

Practice drawing your own footprints, can you draw them as if they are travelling and walking in one direction or facing each other, as if talking to one another.



A camp / ngurang

Is three or five circles, one inside the other:



A camp where people meet.



This camp has the symbol for possum inside it, showing they are Possum Clan people.



This camp has land symbols inside the circles, showing people on their Traditional Lands/ Country.

People sitting at a camp. /
Mayiny-galang wibiyanha ngurang-ga.



This camp has people sitting at the camp. The footprints show there are people walking around the camp.

! Yamandhu winhanganha!

(Did you know!)

The quarter shapes - around the camp - are the shapes people make when they sit cross-legged in the sand or dirt.

Group Connection Symbols

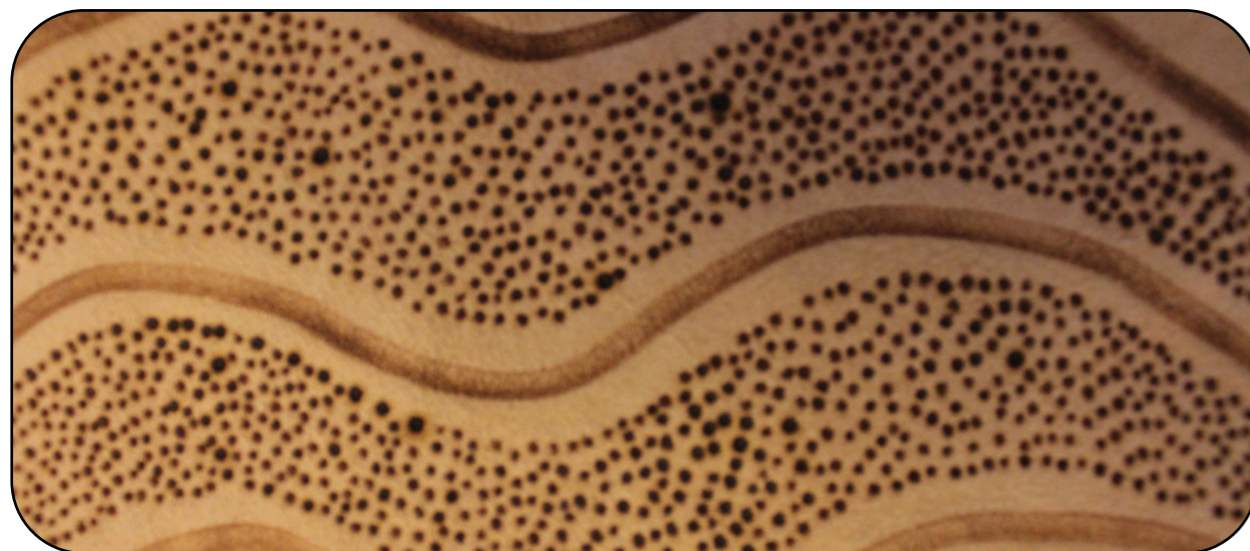
Mayiny-galang (people) yanhanha (coming) mawang (together) Mambril (symbols)



In this drawing are two Family or Clan groups who have Kinship connections coming together. These family groups have the possum symbol in the centre of the circle - this means they all belong to the Possum Totem.

Travelling tracks / murrway

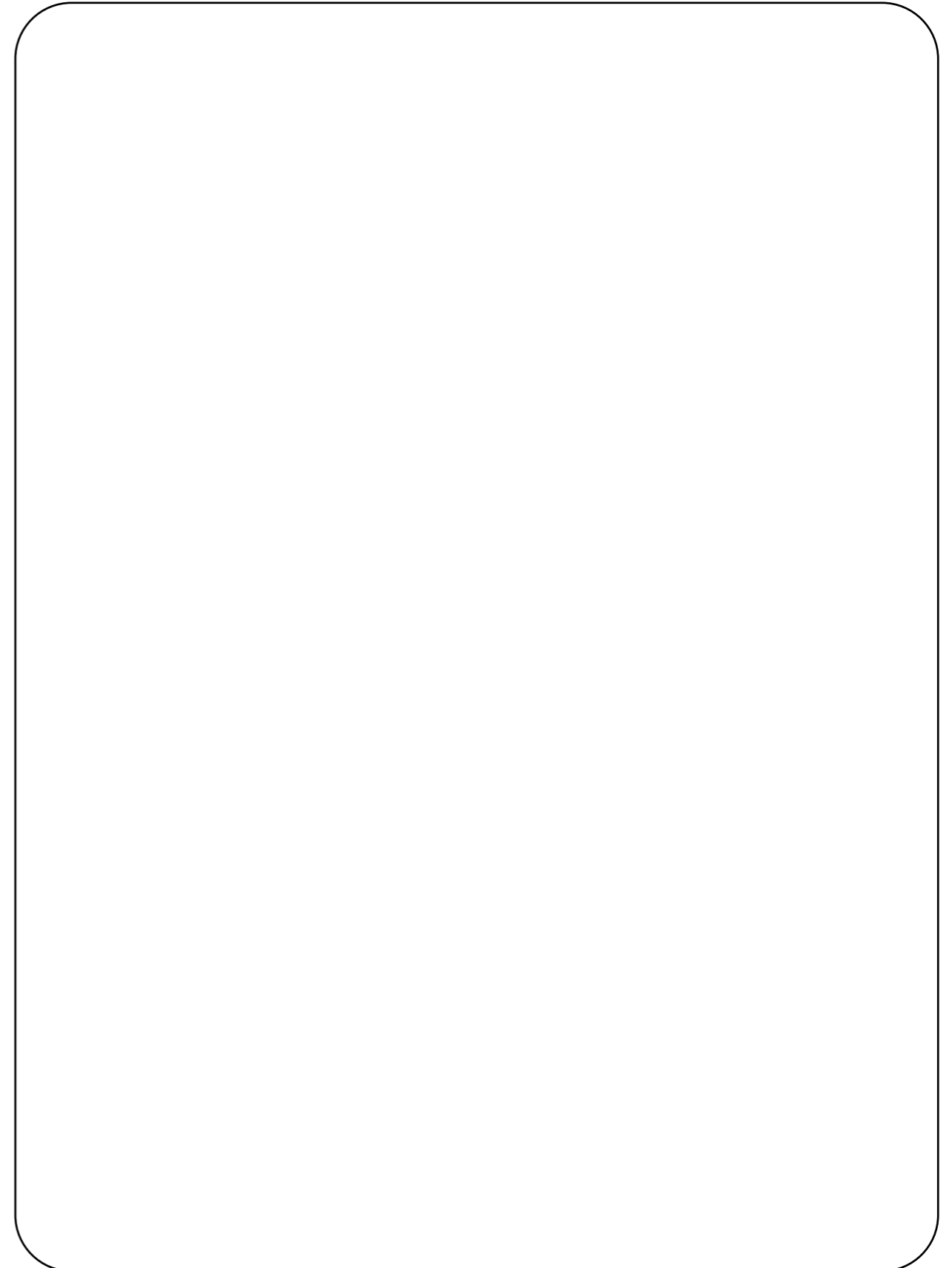
Three or five parallel wavy lines.



Travelling tracks show where groups are connected or are travelling to see one another. The dots inside the travelling tracks represent a Kinship connection between groups.



Do a drawing of five different camps. To show the different groups coming together, join them with travelling tracks.





Practice drawing ‘camps’ - three circles inside each other.

Use your school as an example. For instance make each class in your year group or in your school a different camp. They can be different sizes. Then join the groups together who most often work together and join the groups with traveling tracks, which are three parallel wavy lines. See examples in previous pages.



Now you have learnt some Wiradjuri footprints, camp and travelling track symbols - do a drawing of groups of people coming together, using all these symbols.

Tell your story of who these different groups are.

Wiradjuri - Sounds at a Glance

Wiradjuri vowel sounds

Quick / short vowel sounds:

- a** like in **above** marra - hand/five
i like in **pin** yiradhu - day
u like in **put** bula - two

Slow / stretched vowel sounds:

- aa** like in **father** baabaa - deep
ii like in **bean** magii - all day
uu like in **for** (but don't roll the 'r')
 (or **paw** or 'wu' sound in wuura - open)

Nasal sounds:

- m** **mugi** - eagle hawk
i **yanhanha** - come/ go/ walk
u **mayiny** - people
n **madhan** - tree
ng **ngurang** - home/camp/ nest

Blends:

Like these sounds in English but not the same - you have to know the position of the tongue when pronouncing these sounds. Please note there is a difference.

- ay** like in **play** wilay - bushtail possum
aay like in **pie** buraay - child (about 9)
uy like in **boy** buyu - log
any like in **gain** yulany -hair
anny like in **dine** wagadhaany - dancer
ang like in **rang** yirang - seeds
uny like in **coin** wambuwuny - kangaroo

Sounds or letters that are used to begin Wiradjuri words - beginning sounds

- b** **d** **dh** **dy** **g**
m **n** **ng** **nh** **ny**
w **y**

Liquids and continuants

- l** miil - eyes
w wambad - wombat
r marang - good or gibir - man
y yinaa - woman

Trill sound

- rr** marrang - little ants

Stop sounds

- dh** **dhundhu** - black swan
dy **dyirridyirri** - willie wagtail
 (The **-dy** sound is like **-dg** sound in **judge**)
d **dangal** - shelter
g **gudha** - child
b **bila**- river

English sounds that are not in the Wiradjuri language

- c** **k** **q** **x** **e** **o** **s** **z** **f** **p** **v**

'J' We do not have 'j' but mainly through English interference or unvoiced neighbouring Nations married to Wiradjuri (an example is Wiradjuri with a 'j').

! Yamandhu winhanganha! (Did you know!)

A funny thing happens when an 'a' follows a 'w' to make 'aw' then the 'a' makes an 'o' sound like in 'hot'. This happens in Wiradjuri and English.

Acknowledgements



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

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