

## Burbang Birrang (Ceremonial Journey)

### Lesson Plan

Engage and watch the video

Watch the video of Billyara discussing his artwork on the table setting Burbang Birrang (ceremonial journey).

Read the Fact Sheet on Burbang Birrang (Ceremonial Journey) (See page 3).



### Discuss

**Question 1: What tribe/people does Billyara come from?**

**Answer:** Wiradjuri Nation

**Question 2: What does Billyara mean?**

**Answer:** Billyara means Eagle in Wiradjuri language

**Question 3: Can you explain what a Burbang is? How are they made?**

**Answer:** A Burbang is a ceremonial area or a ceremony. Circle areas are cleared and raised mounds can be found around the outside.

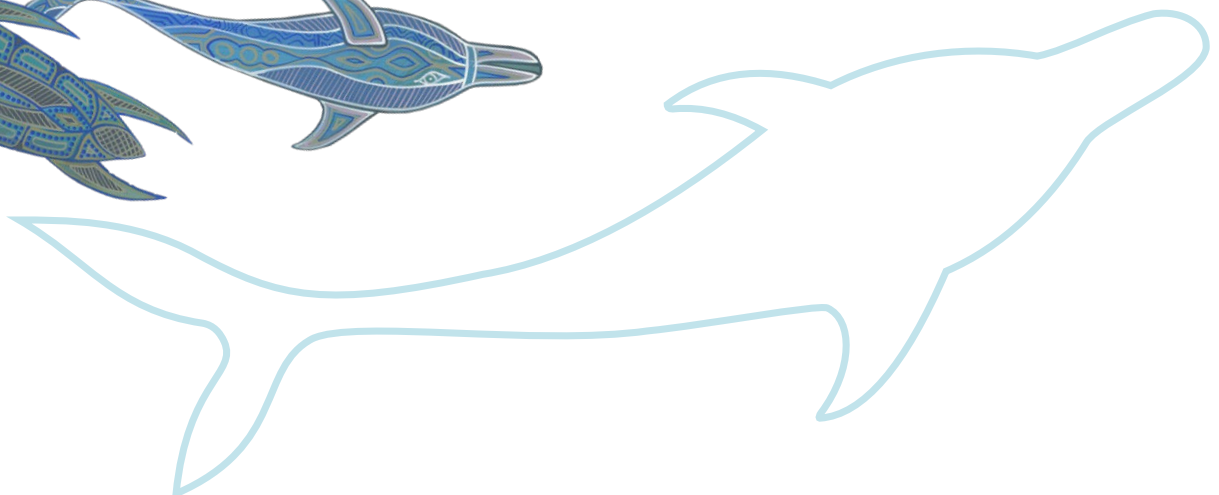
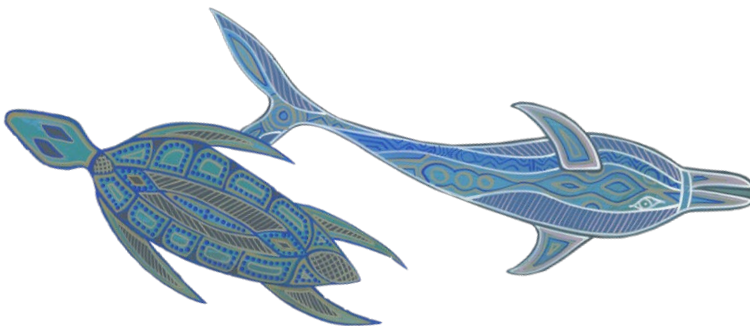
**Question 4: What is a birrang?**

**Answer:** A birrang is a journey.

**Question 5: Looking at the colours of the bands that join the circles on each corner, what does each colour represent?**

**Answer:**

- The red earth represents the Men, the yellow the women and or Torres Strait Islander culture and the cream coloured bands represent the community.
- The hands painted in red, black and yellow dot style on cracked ground represent mother earth and the need for people to heal the country.



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### **Extend and elaborate** **Lesson plan ideas**

1. Think of an Australian animal or plant that you have a connection with. Research about that animal or plant, find out about the characteristics, do you think that some of them are similar to yourself, this could be your totem?  
How do you care for your totem?

2. Research the local Indigenous people from your area or where you were born, can you name the Indigenous people from that area?

3. Go out into nature and clear a spot on the ground. Can you draw with a stick local features, mountains, rivers and tracks?

4. Gather some leaves and branches to create a fire circle, sit around the circle and have a yarn (conversation) about what Indigenous people might talk about during community meetings.

Topics could include:

- Hunting and gathering local natural food resources
- Gathering supplies such as wood, bark, branches to make a shelter.
- Talk about the changing seasons and what differences you might find throughout the year.

5. Talk about important milestones in the student's life, going to day-care, having a birthday, learning how to ride a bike, going to school. These are important parts of their life, like ceremonies. Ceremonies for Indigenous people are steps in learning and important celebrations.

Ask them to draw a special time in their life by using the meeting place as the centre piece, they can decorate around it with people "U" shapes and other features from the symbol sheet or their own images.

### **Evaluate and reflect**

List 3 things you learned in today's lesson



- The blue lines that lead into the blue ring in the centre of the burbang area is representation of water. The cross hatching is the tides, coming in and going out.
- The centre circle with the 2 different shades of blue are water holes. Water being very important for survival of all things living.
- The middens are shown in the section where the shells are. Middens are areas where tribes would sit and consume the food foraged from the ocean. Different types of shells, fish bones etc can be found. In Indigenous culture, we use all the resources nature provides for other purposes. Shells would be used in many other ways such as being sharpened to attach to a spear, a cutting tool and for decoration jewellery etc.
- The Emu and Kangaroo are seen with tracks, moving forward on their journeys.
- All the animals represent the variety of Australian animals and totems throughout our country and communities coming together from across the land.
- The circles with the grey rings are the meeting places for all the community.
- The circle with smaller circles and dots surrounding is a star.
- The centre piece is a fire. Fire is an important part of cultural practice and survival.
- “U” shapes are surrounding the fire which represent the people sitting around the fire from a birds eye view.
- Feathers surrounding the tracks are used as decorations for ceremonies.

