

Wirimbirra Wirimbirra (Take care of, preserve or to keep)

Lesson Plan

Engage and watch the video

Watch the video of Billyara discussing his artwork on the Bin surround Wirimbirra Wirimbirra (Take care of, preserve or to keep).

Read the **Fact Sheet on Wirimbirra Wirimbirra (Take care of, preserve or to keep)** (See page 2).



Discuss

1. What are some of your favourite parts of the artwork?
2. Can you see the woman in the river/water way catching a turtle and snake?
3. The man lighting the fire is caring for the land, what is this called?

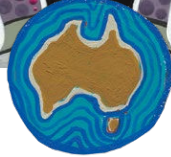


Extend and elaborate Lesson plan ideas

1. Research the time of the year that whales migrate up the East Coast.
2. Research Dreamtime stories about the Sun and Moon.
3. Find pictures of littered waterways and discuss why keeping them clear might be important for the environment, people and animals that live in the area.
4. Do some research on bush tucker and create an artwork featuring your favourite plant or animal.
5. Nature walk, talk about bees and flowers and all things nature and why it is important to keep a balance for all living things.

Evaluate and reflect

List 3 things you learned in today's lesson



Fact Sheet

Additional Artwork Information from Billyara, the artist

I chose to replicate the word Wirimbirra (meaning to take care, preserve or keep) as caring for country and culture go hand in hand and we can't have one without the other.

Wirimbirra Wirimbirra is an artwork about preserving our future, looking after and maintaining our land. In Indigenous culture, we never take more than what is needed and care for our natural environment and animals.

One way Indigenous people take care of the plants and animals around them is by their totem. A totem is a plant or animal that you are assigned to. This can be a number of totems from Tribe totem, family totem and personal totem. You are not allowed to eat the totem and have a duty to respect and care for it throughout your life.

There are many Dreamtime stories that depict the sun as a woman, lighting a fire each morning and carrying it across the sky.

Biame (our creator/God) who lives in the murriyang (sky-world) is holding the water and this represents the waterways and tides, balancing the Earth and all that encompasses it with tidal changes. In the water you can see a whale and with seasonal changes we know that the whales head up North to warmer waters and we know when ceremony time is. We know that certain foods are available and what to expect in the way of weather patterns.

We have a duty to care for our environment, clearing waterways, rivers and the ocean. In doing this we use the reeds for weaving purpose to make items such as dilly bags, baskets and mats.

There is a kangaroo and emu which are holding up the stars. They are prominent in our culture and show strength in moving forward representing the dances and ceremonies performed during certain times.

Fire-stick farming (cultural, cool burn and back burn are other terms used), is performed to control the over growth and clear dry grasses and trees. There is multiple purposes for this practice, one being to make sure this is done under cooler weather so fires don't start in the warmer weather where they could easily get out of control. During this process, animals are hunted on the edges of the fire. When time passes and season changes the seeds dispersed will flourish and create new growth.

Stars are an important part of our everyday life, we use them for directions, when it's time for certain ceremonies, when food is available. There are 88 constellations and each tell a story, these stories are passed down and in turn teach our people survival, morals and how to care for country.