



Local seasons journal

Acknowledgement of Country

Whose Country are you on?

Today the weather is:

The local season is:

What do you see?

What do you feel?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?





Local seasons journal

My seasonal observations

Find the season you are in from the story and draw or write about at least one thing you observe locally. Look at the animals, plants and weather to help describe the season.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a red dotted line, intended for drawing or writing observations.





Local seasons journal

Learning about the seasons from Jarrah and Adam

Adam's story

Adam is a Wiradjuri man living on Ngunnawal Country so these perspectives are a mix of both of these local areas.

People from Wiradjuri Country are known as “people of three rivers” being the Macquarie River (Wambool), Lachlan River (Kalari) and the Murrumbidgee River (Murrumbidjeri) which border their lands. Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory is Ngunnawal country.

Jarrah had a question for Adam and was looking forward to going for a walk with him in the bush on Wiradjuri Country.

Jarrah asked “It’s Autumn at the moment but the leaves aren’t turning red and falling off the trees. Why?”

Adam replied “the plants in Australia don’t do that, we have different plants and animals and different weather to other countries. The idea of four seasons comes from places in the Northern Hemisphere like Europe where the plants lose their leaves in Autumn. We don’t have four seasons here. We even have different seasons all over the country. First Nations Peoples have always known what the different seasons are and have always watched the changes in the weather and the sky during the day and night. They also know all about the plants and animals at different times of the year.” Jarrah was really interested in what Adam had to say. “Wow! That’s amazing, can you tell me more?” asked Jarrah.

After their walk, Jarrah drew pictures and wrote about some of the things that Adam spoke to him about on Indigenous weather knowledge, including the different seasons.

Instructions

Read through all of the seasons in the Indigenous weather knowledge story on the following pages.

Find the season you are in now and complete the Local Seasons Journal to draw or write about at least one thing you observe.

Look at the animals, plants and weather around you to help describe the season.





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First Summer

Mid-November to late December

Many of the plants are now flowering and begin to produce yummy fruits. The thunderstorms have arrived. Can you hear an interesting bird? He is called the Eastern Koel. They have come down south following Wahwee's (rain spirit) storms, they sing an interesting tune.



Deep Summer

January to early March

The weather is now very hot and dry. Many of the grasses and wattles have seeds. The crickets and cicadas fill the air with piercing calls. Can you count how many times the cricket calls in 15 seconds? The faster the chirps the hotter the day. They start to get slower as summer ends and we move into first winter.



First Winter

March to mid-May

Can you feel the air cooling at night? This makes the skies much clearer too, and the days are very nice. We see Budja Budja the butterfly a lot in this period. They come together and dance in the sky. What colour butterflies do we see? When it's still warm and we see many Budja Budja, they warn us that Guddi - the snake is nearby.

Image Source: <http://boic.org.au/index.html?page=/html/butterflygallery.html>





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Deep Winter

Mid-May to mid-July

It is now starting to become very cold. Although we still sometimes have nice sunny days, they are very short and the nights become longer. Look up at the sky on a cold night. Is the sky clear and do the stars twinkle very fast? This tells us it will be frosty in the morning. If you're at an open grassy reserve, you may see the red chested robin. She is very busy in this coldest time, hopping around the ground looking for insects to eat.

Image Source: <http://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/Red-capped-Robin>



First Spring

July, August, mid-September

Observe the magpies, the mother magpie starts to get fat as she is pregnant with her babies. Watch as she builds her nest finding grass, bark and twigs. Look at the Wattle, they come out in brilliant yellow flowers all over the bush. Giraah (wind spirit) makes it very windy.



Deep Spring

Late September to early November

Watch the ants, are they all busy on the ground? Are they bringing light coloured stones on their nest and building the nest high? They do this as the weather warms, and before the thunderstorms approach. We now have longer days and shorter nights. Yiraay (the Sun Spirit) warms the land.

