

TREEMENDOUS TREES

with



Trees are the dominant feature of our outdoor spaces. We need trees to provide shade, shelter and food for animals and us. This activity takes you outdoors to observe nature, especially trees. View the Treemendous Trees Animoto <https://animoto.com/play/Wlc0hrzaAviXvRwBTfCz7Q> (this link needs to be opened in Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Mozilla Firefox to play)



You may be surprised by the number and variety of animals you see and hear when you pause and look closely at a tree.

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What will you discover?



Exploration

Go for a walk outside and observe what is happening in nature. Walk slowly and look carefully at the trees and other plants. Stop. Sit or stand still for 10 – 20 minutes and listen. What animals and other sounds do you hear and see.



Observation – Look closely

Choose a tree to examine. Look and listen for evidence of animals – birds singing, chewing or spots on leaves, nests, scratching on the bark, holes. Look around the base of the tree. Are there any chewed nuts or scratching.



Chewed nuts activity

Collect honky nut that have different chew marks and see if you can work out what has been feeding in the tree. <http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/online-exhibitions/cockatoo-care/marri-nut-identification>.



Changing seasons activity

As the seasons change trees have flowers or fruit or seed pods. Some lose their leaves. Choose a tree near your home or in the school grounds and visit it once a month. Record your observations (write, draw, photos) of any changes and any animals you see.



To find out about trees that flower in different seasons and how the Nyoongar people used them. Please click here [Bush Cards for Youth](#) for more information.



Knowledge



Nature changes with the seasons. In the south west of Western Australia it is widely recognised that we have 6 seasons as described by the local Indigenous people. The Nyoongar names for these seasons are Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang. The Nyoongar six-season calendar is a guide to what nature is doing at every stage of the year. Seasons can be long or short depending on what is happening around us rather than by dates on a calendar.

Learn more about the 6 Nyoongar seasons here. <http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/nyoongar/index.shtml>

BIRAK



First Summer - Hot and dry with hot easterly winds. Many fledgling birds venture out of nests. Reptiles shed their old skin for a new one. This is the time to make Kangaroo skin coats (Booka), which protect the body against the harsh wind and sun.

BUNURU



Second Summer - The time of hot easterly winds with cool south-westerly afternoon sea breezes. Nyoongar people move to coastal estuaries to fish. The white flowers of marri and the ghost gums are in full bloom. This is a time to fire the land in mosaic patterns to help the bush replenish itself.

DJERAN



Ant Season - Cool & Pleasant with cool nights and dew in the early mornings. Fishing continues, but the people begin to migrate back to the wetland areas. Hunting increases, mainly for emus & turtles. The women collect bulbs & seeds from zamias & bulrushes. Banksia flowers blossom, providing nectar for mammals and birds and the red 'rust' & seed cones form on the male and female sheoaks. Flying ants emerge.

MAKURU



The first rains - Now is the coldest and wettest time of the year. Nyoongar people continue to migrate inland to the Darling Scarp, to hunt and for shelter. Food sources change to those of the land, such as kangaroos. The yellow flowers of the acacias are blooming. Animals start to pair up in preparation for breeding in the next season.

DJILBA



Growing Season - A transitional time, with very cold and clear days, warmer, rainy and windy days and sunny days. Common foods gathered by Nyoongar groups along the rivers include eggs from water fowl, emus, swans and ducks, supplemented by berries, roots and some larger game. It's the start of the flowering explosion that happens in the South West. Birds are nesting and we now see the swooping protective behaviour of the magpie, willy wagtail and wattle bird.

KAMBARANG



Wildflower Season - Longer dry periods with a warming trend. A wealth of colours and flowers surround us: The yellows and creams of the hakeas, delicate pinks and blues of orchids, the vivid red and green of the kangaroo paw and balgas start to flower. Families move back towards the coast where freshwater crayfish (gilgies), frogs, turtles and blue marron were caught. Awakening snakes and goannas are a good source of food during this season