Knowledge area:	Food Gathering

TEACHING NOTES

Animal Name Origins Map (Interactive)

Text type: written, interactive, online, multimodal

VISUAL STIMULUS FOCUS

The *Animal Name Origins Map* is a narrated interactive that explains a variety of Aboriginal language names for many of today's most common Australian animals.
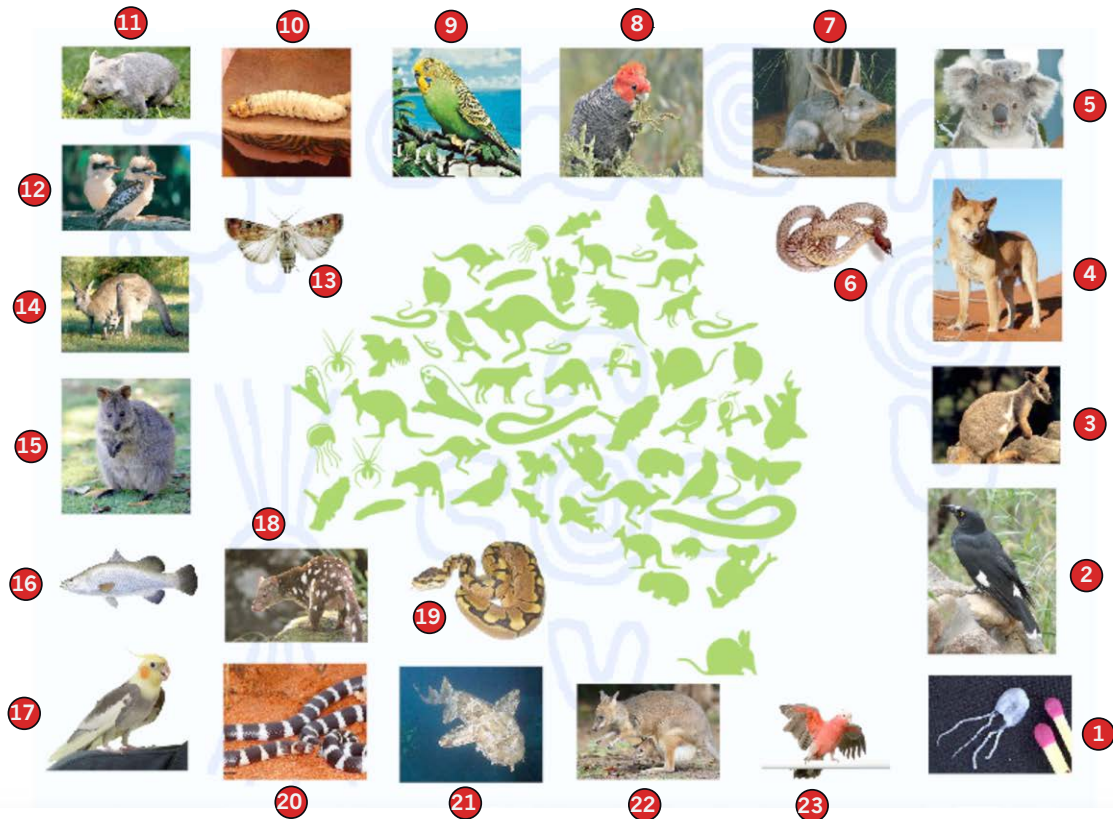
PRIOR TO VIEWING

🖐 Introduce the *Animal Name Origins Map* interactive to the students.

🖐 Load the interactive on the website.

🖐 Explain to the students that the names of many of well-known Australian animals come from the many different language names that Australian Aboriginal people gave them.

Background

• *At the time of European colonisation there were hundreds of different traditional Aboriginal languages and several geographically defined Torres Strait Islander languages spoken in Australia. Historically, clan groups could speak not only their own language but also the language belonging to their neighbours.* [Sometimes up to 17 different languages.] *This was very important when trade and travel occurred across traditional language boundaries.*[1]

• In early settlement times, European explorers would come across an unfamiliar animal and ask Aboriginal tribesmen what the animal was. Due to language barriers, what the explorers recorded was a mixed-up version of what they heard.

SHARED VIEWING

The *Animal Name Origins Map* interactive features 23 different Australian animals. Select each photograph to bring up information about the Aboriginal origins of the animal's name.

N°	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
1	**Irukandji Jellyfish**	The Irukandji was named after the Irukandji Aboriginal people, whose country stretches along the coastal strip north of Cairns where this jellyfish can be found. It is one of the most deadly animals in the world.
2	**Currawong**	The word was recorded from languages between Newcastle and Brisbane — *cur-ow-ung* in Awaba language in the Newcastle area of New South Wales, and *kirriwong* from the Birbai tribal group of the Port Macquarie area of New South Wales.
3	**Wallaby**	The word for wallaby reportedly came from the Dharug (Darag) people of the Sydney region. Their word for wallaby was *walaba*. Other names for wallaby from different Aboriginal tribal groups include *mani*, *parrpay* and *kantu*.

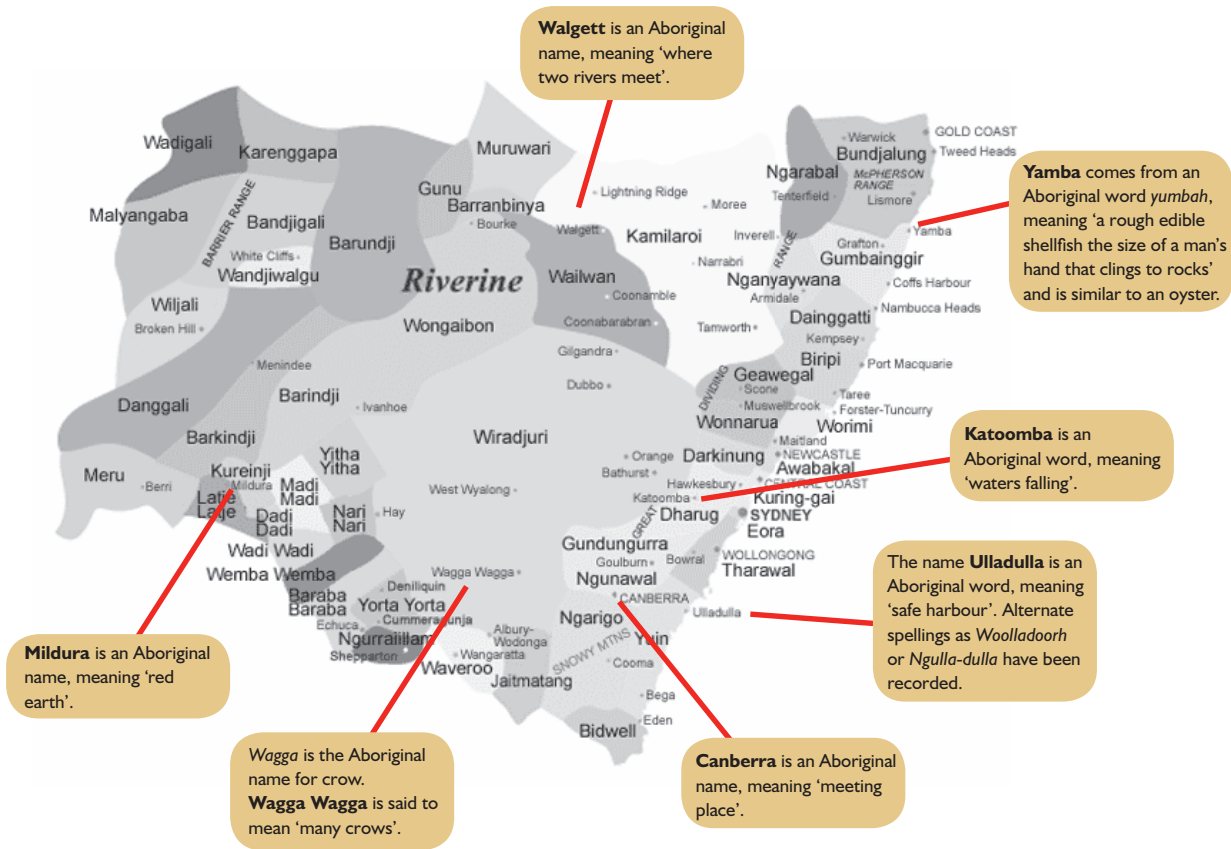| N°	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
4	**Dingo**	Australia's famous native dog. The word *dingu* comes from the Dharug language, originally spoken in the area around Sydney. It referred to the tame dogs of the Aboriginal people, although the English settlers also used it to describe any wild dog. Some bushmen continue to call the wild animal by the Dharug term *warrigal*. Other Aboriginal names for dingo include *yuugi*, *mirri* and *dabay*.
5	**Koala**	The word for the cute koala is recorded from the Dharug people of the Sydney region in New South Wales. Their word for koala is *gula*. Other names reportedly for the koala from several Aboriginal groups include *colo*, *koolah*, *boorabee*, *karbor*, *colah* and *koolewong*.
6	**Taipan**	The word taipan was reported to come from the Wik-Mungkan (Wick Monk-can) people of the Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. This is the original word and was one of the few animal names not changed by early settlers.
7	**Bilby**	The form *bil-bi* has been recorded in Yuwaalaraay, the language of central and northern New South Wales. It means 'long nosed rat'. Other names from Aboriginal tribal groups for bilby include *pilpi* and *pinkco*.
8	**Gang-gang Cockatoo**	The name gang-gang was reported to come from a New South Wales Aboriginal language, either Ngunnawal or Wiradjuri. It is possible both language groups called it gang-gang. Other names for cockatoos from various Aboriginal tribal groups include *garrawi*, *kiiku* and *kalalek*.
9	**Budgerigar**	This name was reported as coming from the Gamilarray (Ga-mill-a-ray) language of central and northern New South Wales. It was actually a mispronunciation of the word *gidjirrigaa*. It means 'good eating'. One other word written for budgerigar from another Aboriginal group was *batharra*.
10	**Witchetty Grub**	The word for witchetty grub was reported to come from the Adnyamathanha people of Central Desert region of the Northern Territory. Their word for witchetty grub was *witya vartu* — two words. *Witya* means 'hooked stick' and *vartu* means 'grub'.
11	**Wombat**	The word wombat reportedly came from the Dharug people, an Aboriginal tribal group from the Sydney region. Their word for wombat was *wambad*. Other names reported for wombat from several Aboriginal tribal groups include *warto*, *goolung*, *wombak* and *womat*.

N°	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
12	**Kookaburra**	Did you know the word kookaburra comes from the Wiradjuri (Weir-rad-jury) people of central west New South Wales? Their word for kookaburra was *guuguubarra*. Other Aboriginal names for kookaburra include *kuukakaka* (doesn't that sound like the call of the kookaburra?), *jawawoodoo* and *gahgan*.
13	**Bogong Moth**	This is a word reported to come from the Yiatmathong (Ye-at-ma-thong) people in Northern Victoria. It means 'high plains'. It was a major festival area where the Yiatmathong tribal group would hold a huge feast to the Bogong moth and hundreds of tribal groups would attend.
14	**Kangaroo**	The word for our most famous animal, the kangaroo, reportedly came from the Guugu-Yimidhirr (Goo-goo Yim-ee-thar) people of Cooktown area of North Queensland. Their word for kangaroo was *gangurru*. Other names for kangaroo include *yuuluuma, jukurrhu*, *yongkar* and *thiroo*.
15	**Quokka**	The word for quokka came from the Noongar (Noong-ahh) people of the South West region of Western Australia. Their word for quokka is *gwaga*. Other names for quokka from other Aboriginal groups include *kwoka* and *kuka*.
16	**Barramundi**	Barramundi is said to be a loan word from a Queensland Aboriginal language group in the Rockhampton region of Queensland. It means 'large-scaled river fish'. Other Aboriginal names for barramundi are *balga* and *pharnu*.
17	**Quarrion**	Quarrion (which means 'small parrot') comes from the Wiradjuri people's language of central west New South Wales, and was recorded as originating from the word *guwarrayin*. Other names for the quarrion, also known as the cockatiel, are *wirrupa* and *wiru*.
18	**Quoll**	The name for this spotted native cat came from the Guugu-Yimidhirr people of Queensland. Their name was *dhigul*. However, Joseph Banks (the famous English explorer) recorded this name in 1770 mistakenly as *je-quoll*, hence the name today. Other Aboriginal names are said to be *mabi* and *perrity*.

N°	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
19	**Woma Python**	The word *wama* in the sense of carpet snake, or snake in general, is found in a large number of languages of South Australia and the Channel Country of Queensland. This includes the Diyari language from the far north of South Australia. Other names for carpet snakes include *yura*, *yaba*, *yapaa* and *waakal*.
20	**Bandi Bandi**	This name was used for a number of different kinds of small snake. The common *bandy bandy* is a word from the north coast Aboriginal people of New South Wales. Another Aboriginal name recorded for bandi bandi is *wirragardara*.
21	**Wobbegong**	Wobbegong (which is a strange-sounding name) is believed to come from a South Australian Aboriginal language. It means 'shaggy beard', which refers to the straggly growth around its mouth.
22	**Pademelon**	Pademelon (which sounds like a little fruit) is actually a small wallaby. The word *paddy malla* was reported to come from the Dharug Aboriginal people of the Sydney area. It means 'small kangaroo'.
23	**Galah**	The word for Australia's screeching galah is reported to come from the Yuwaalaraay (You-wahl-a-ray) people of northern New South Wales. Their word for galah was *gilaa*. Other names for galah from several other tribal groups include *kilaa*, *kilampa* and *wilek wilek*.

Aboriginal Language Groups

- Explain to the students that if they had travelled all over Australia a thousand years ago, or even a few hundred years ago, they would have heard, for example, several hundred different language names for the koala. This was because there were over 500 language groups in Australia for thousands of years.

- Ask the students to choose an animal from the interactive to hear its original Aboriginal name. Listen to how the word is enunciated, and ask the class to repeat it out loud.

- View the *Aboriginal Tribal Language Map* with the students (see the *Additional Resources* section). Explain to the students that each of the different shaded or coloured-in areas is a different Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language group.

- Point out to the students one of the larger coloured areas; for example, Wiradjuri (Weir-rad-jury), the area that is coloured light brown in New South Wales.

- Explain to the students that the people who live in the region speak one type of language. Point to the pink area to the right of Wiradjuri. Explain that this is where the Dharug (Da-rag) people live, and that these people speak a very different language to the Wiradjuri.

The map below shows some Australian town names that have come from Aboriginal language.

Walgett is an Aboriginal name, meaning 'where two rivers meet'.

Yamba comes from an Aboriginal word *yumbah*, meaning 'a rough edible shellfish the size of a man's hand that clings to rocks' and is similar to an oyster.

Katoomba is an Aboriginal word, meaning 'waters falling'.

The name **Ulladulla** is an Aboriginal word, meaning 'safe harbour'. Alternate spellings as *Woolladoorh* or *Ngulla-dulla* have been recorded.

Mildura is an Aboriginal name, meaning 'red earth'.

Wagga is the Aboriginal name for crow. **Wagga Wagga** is said to mean 'many crows'.

Canberra is an Aboriginal name, meaning 'meeting place'.

Speaking Wiradjuri

This resource has been written in the language of the Wiradjuri (Weir-rad-jury) people. Wiradjuri is one of the largest language groups in New South Wales. It is spoken over much of the central southern region of the state. Wiradjuri country is also known as river country, as it takes in some of the largest river systems including the Murray, Lachlan and the Macquarie Rivers.

Here are some Australian place names from the Wiradjuri language.

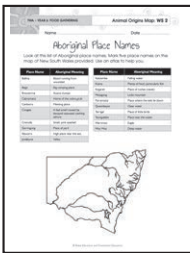| Place Name	Aboriginal Meaning
Cargelligo	Lake
Cobar	Red or burnt earth
Condobolin	Hop bush
Tumut	By the river
Cootamundra	Low-lying place
Dubbo	Head covering
Gundagai	Going upstream
Narromine	Place of honey
Carcoar	Frog
Mudgee	A nest
Gulgong	A gully
Wagga	A dizzy man or crow
Cooyal	Dry country
Burrendong	Darker than usual

AFTER VIEWING DISCUSSION

- Ask the students why they think that Aboriginal people had so many languages instead of one main one like Australian English. (*Answer*: The Australian landscape was harsh, so the groups were small for the sake of survival. Therefore, once the groups became too large to be sustained in one area, they split off. To ensure people knew which group they were from, they created their own language.)

- Ask the students why they think the Aboriginal names for animals were different to what they are called now. (*Answer:* The sounds of the Aboriginal words may not have been heard and understood exactly the way the Aboriginal man or woman was saying them. Remember that Aboriginal languages were quite different to the European languages that early settlers were used to.)

SUPPORTING WORKSHEETS

Worksheet 1: Aboriginal Animal Names

A researching activity where students select an animal from the *Animal Name Origins Map* interactive and learn more about the language groups where the names originally came from.

Worksheet 2: Aboriginal Place Names

A mapping activity where students use an atlas to help them label a map with Aboriginal place names.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Aboriginal Tribal Language Map
http://www.crackerjackeducation.com.au/resources/aboriginal-tribal-language-map

CURRICULUM

ENGLISH	
Content description	**Elaboration**
Understand how to use knowledge of known words, word origins including some Latin and Greek roots, base words, prefixes, suffixes, letter patterns and spelling generalisations to spell new words including technical words (ACELA1526)	• using a dictionary to explore and use knowledge of word origins, including some Greek roots, to spell words • learning about words from other languages, for example 'umbrella' comes from the Italian word ombrello, and the word for 'yabby' is derived from the Aboriginal word 'yabij'
Understand that different social and geographical dialects or accents are used in Australia in addition to Standard Australian English (ACELA1515)	• recognising that there are more than 150 Aboriginal languages and two Torres Strait Islander languages and that they relate to geographic areas in Australia • recognising that all languages and dialects are of equal value, although we use different ones in different contexts, for example the use of Standard Australian English, Aboriginal English and forms of Creole used by some Torres Strait Islander groups and some of Australia's near neighbours

KNOWLEDGE AREAS AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

English

In early settlement times, European explorers would come across an unfamiliar animal and ask Aboriginal tribesmen what the animal was. Due to language barriers, what the explorers recorded was a mixed-up version of what they heard. The origins of many words and names of places within the Australian modern day language can be traced back to traditional Aboriginal language. (ACELA1487)

There were over 500 language groups in Australia for thousands of years. Each of the different shaded or coloured-in areas on the *Aboriginal Tribal Language Map* represents a different Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language group. (ACELA1515)

REFERENCE

1. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. "Language, Totems and Stories." Accessed February 23, 2017. http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-partners/traditional-owners/traditional-owners-of-the-great-barrier-reef/language-totems-and-stories.