Aboriginal Totems



Rebecca Wilks Euchareena Public School





Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

In 2014, the "Tools, Totems & Tucker" Enviro-Stories program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about local Aboriginal cultural - in particular Wiradjuri culture. This program was sponsored by the Central West and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Central Tablelands Local Land Services

The Central Tablelands Local Land Services region is located in central New South Wales and covers an area of approximately 31,365 km². It includes the major towns of Bathurst, Blayney, Cowra, Lithgow, Molong, Mudgee, Oberon and Orange. It falls predominantly within Wiradjuri Aboriginal country and small parts of Dharug and Darkinjung country.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands

Central West Local Land Services

The Central West Local Land Services region is home to around 110,000 people and covers the central west slopes region around Grenfell, Forbes and Wellington to the western plains of Nyngan and Coonamble. The major Aboriginal nations that the central west region overlies are the Wiradjuri, Wailwan, Wongaibon, Kawambarai and Kamialroi. These nations also extend into other Local Land Services regions.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest

Aboriginal Totems

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The "Tools, Totems and Tucker" Enviro-Stories Program has been proudly supported by the Central West and Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

The "Tools, Totems & Tucker" collection consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Central Tablelands Local Land Services

- Aboriginal Totems
- Our Living Land
- Aboriginal Animal Tracks
- Aboriginal Life
- The Dreamtime Trilogy

Sponsored by Central West Local Land Services

- · Burnum finds his way
- How the Koala got his claws
- Storm Boy and Uncle Farren
- The Peculiar Platypus
- The Rainbow Serpent is back!

ISBN: 978 1 74256 699 3

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative. Graphic design by PeeKdesigns, www.peekdesigns.com.au Printed by Greenridge Press, www.greenridgepress.com.au

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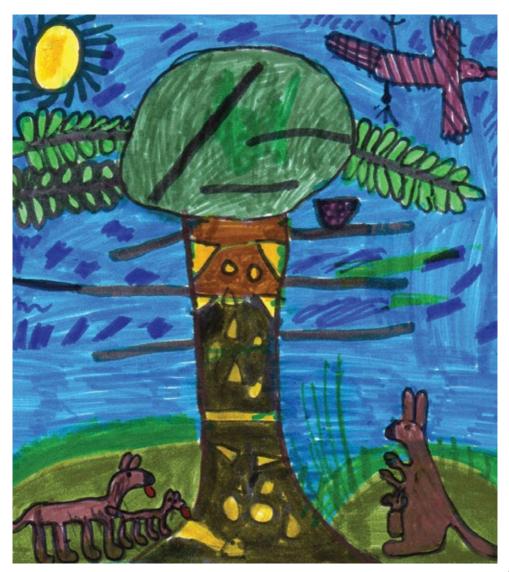
What is a Totem?

It is an animal or plant given to you at birth that your family has a special connection to.



What does having a Totem mean?

It means you are responsible for looking after that animal or plant and its habitat.



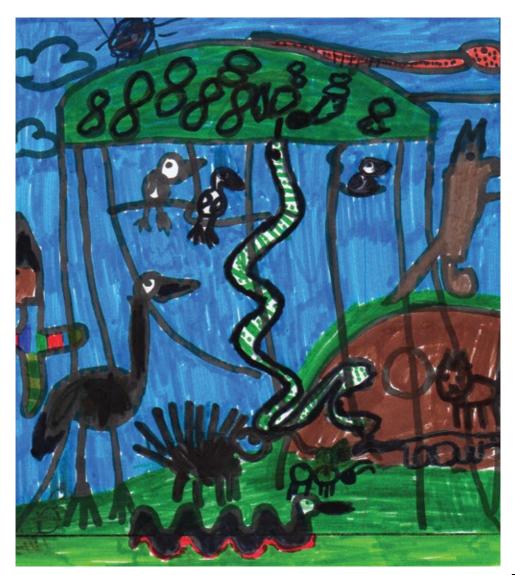
How do you look after your totem?

You never, ever kill your totem animal.

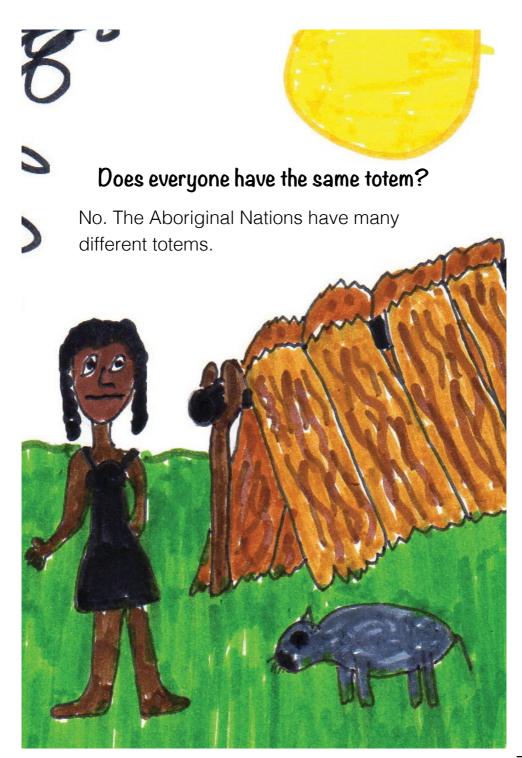


How do you look after the habitat?

Make sure you have enough trees for climbing, resting and hunting.

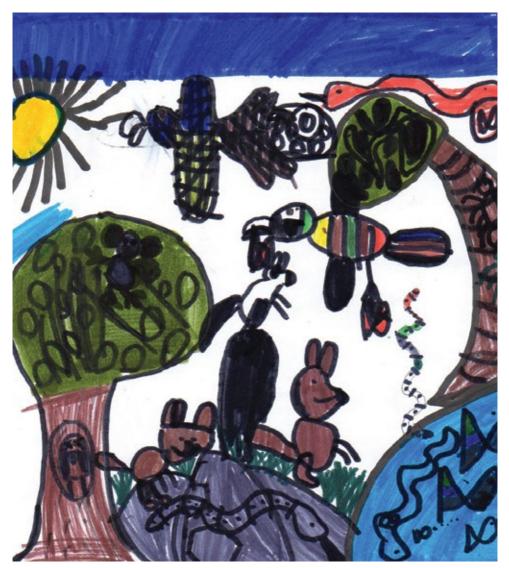






What does this mean for the environment?

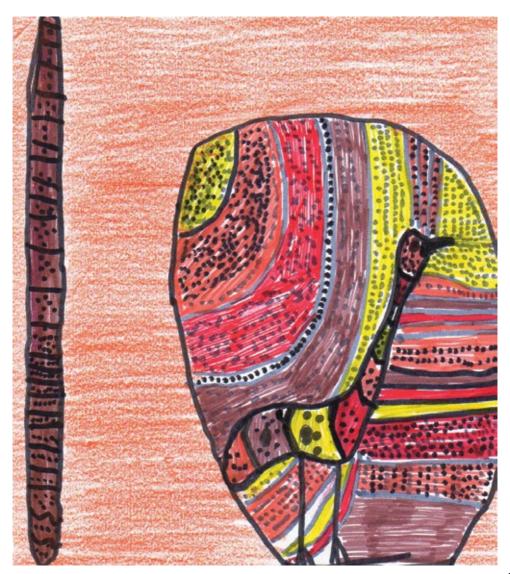
This means there is always someone looking out for an animal and its habitat.



How do Aboriginal people look after their totem?

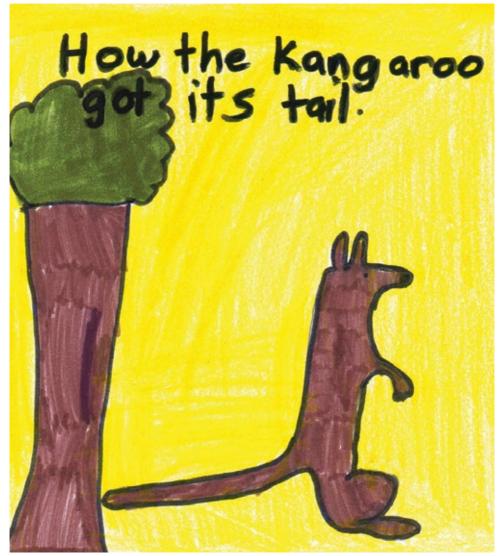
They paint the totem on things they own.

Today, we make posters and logos about them.



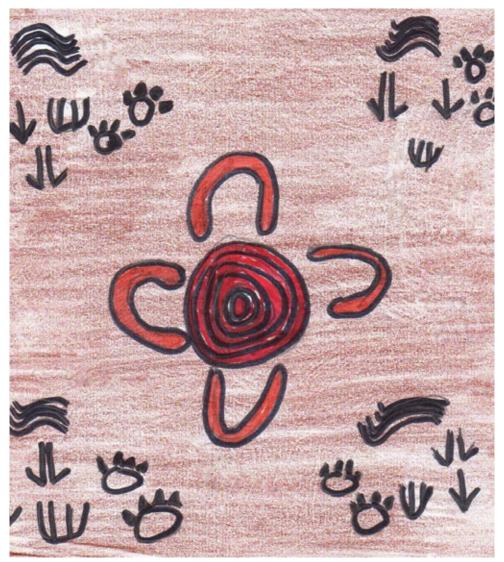
Aboriginal people learn about their totem through ceremonies, Dreaming stories and by watching them.

Today, we can read their stories and do projects about them.



Aboriginal people sing songs and tell stories so that everyone knows about their totem.

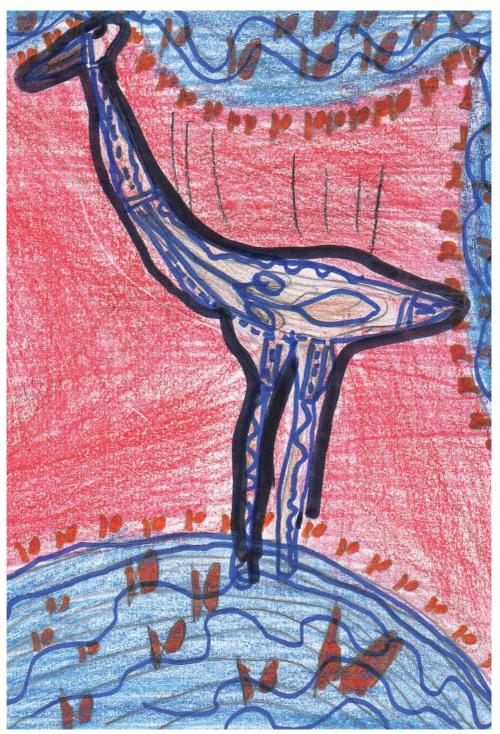
Today, we can make TV ads and movies about the animals.



Aboriginal people left safe places for their totem to live and avoided killing them.

Today, we can also protect their environment, make safe places, like national parks, and stop killing them.





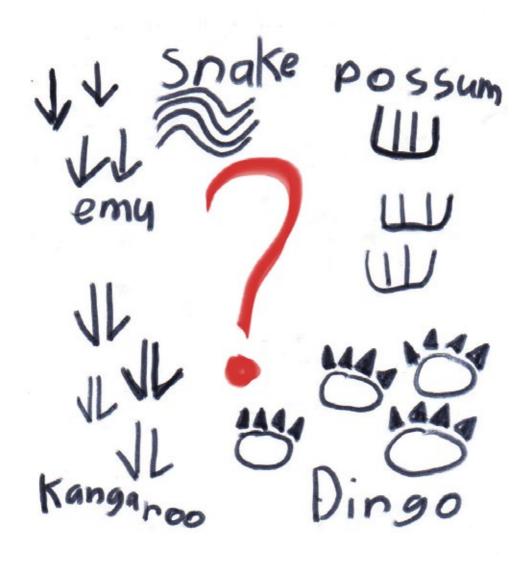
If I had a totem, I would like it to be a Rock Wallaby.

I can protect it by not hunting it and by looking after its habitat.



Everyone has their own totem.

What would yours be?





Rebecca Wilks Euchareena Public School, Year 4 2014





