

# Waterworks

## Indigenous perspectives curriculum links

### Engage

#### Lesson 1 Wondering about water

For traditional Indigenous people life is often nomadic and based on the availability of both water and food. Knowing the locality and reliability of different sources of water in the arid landscape is a vital part of Indigenous knowledge. This includes knowing the location of underground water and how to obtain water from the roots of particular trees and plants.

- View this clip [www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/5-seasons/clip3](http://www.australianscreen.com.au/titles/5-seasons/clip3) Discuss the problems caused in the town by the excess water. Ask students questions such as:
  - Have you experienced weather like this?
  - What problems do you think too much rain could cause?
  - What are the good things about the rain coming?

### Explore

#### Lesson 2 Water walk

Many Indigenous stories involve water, with people often gathering food or fishing.

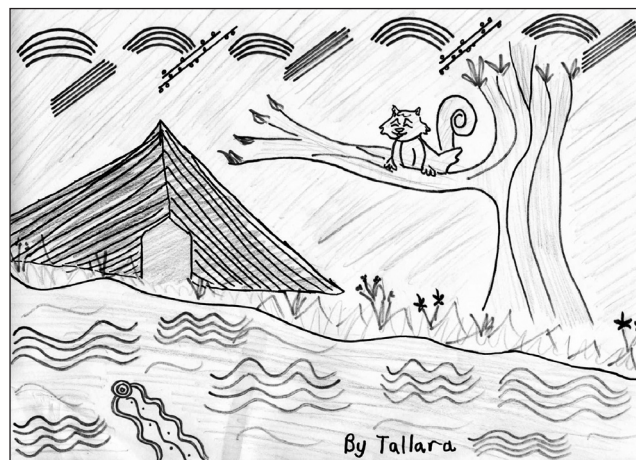
- Contact the local Indigenous Land Council or cultural heritage centre to make contact with local Indigenous community members and invite them to speak with the students about Indigenous peoples' knowledge of water.

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### Lesson 3 Rain, rain

- Read stories about Indigenous people and rain, such as *Big Rain Coming*.  
(Germein, K. (1999). *Big Rain Coming*. New York: Clarion Books.)
- Explore symbols used to represent water and water sources, in Indigenous art. Create a picture using some of the symbols.  
See [www.aboriginalartstore.com.au/aboriginal-art-culture/aboriginal-symbols-glossary](http://www.aboriginalartstore.com.au/aboriginal-art-culture/aboriginal-symbols-glossary)



Work sample using indigenous art symbols

## Explain

### Lesson 5 My water story

- Invite local Indigenous community members to share their knowledge with students about local water sources. With permission, take photographs to add to the class science journal.

Organise students to prepare questions such as:

- How do you find water in the desert?
- Where are the local water sources?
- What plants grow around the local water sources?
- How do Indigenous people look after water sources?