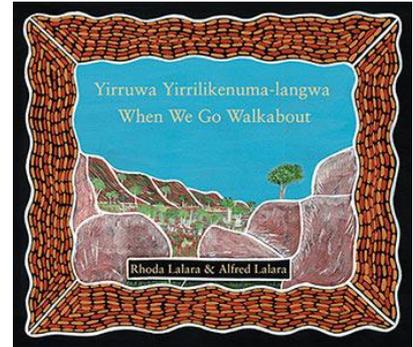


LEARNING TIME

When We Go Walkabout Yirruwa Yirrilikenuma-langwa

by Rhoda Lalara and Alfred Lalara

When we go walkabout what do we see? A glossy green frog, a bounding wallaby, a squawking cockatoo and someone special waiting for us when we get home.



A beautiful story, in English and Anindilyakwa language, that brings to vivid life the unique world of Groote Eylandt and its Indigenous People. Discover all the animals living on this land through the rich indigenous art.

This book was produced through the Emerging Indigenous Picture Book Mentoring Project, a joint initiative between The Little Big Book Club and Allen & Unwin, with funding from the Australian Council for the Arts.

Key Message for Parents | Children learn through being engaged and doing

We can help children learn in an active, engaged way by:

- Reading picture books, which provide opportunities to stimulate meaningful play experiences for children
- Giving exposure to rich language, hands on experiences and the chance to repeat activities
- Talking, singing and sharing stories. These early experiences help children develop language and social skills by making important connections in their brain.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

As educators we can promote knowledgeable and confident self-identities in children by:

- Talking in respectful ways about the similarities and differences in people
- Providing children with examples of the many ways identities and culture are recognized and expressed
- Actively supporting the maintenance of home language and culture, and sharing languages with each other.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



You may like to introduce the book at this stage, or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.

Song - Cuddly Koalas (sung to the tune of Frere Jacques)

Cuddly Koalas,

Cuddly Koalas.

Possums, too,

Possums, too.

Wallabies and Wombats,

Wallabies and Wombats.

Kangaroos, Kangaroos.

ACTIONS:

Koala - Cross arms like hugging something

Possums - Hold hands up to eyes like looking through eye glasses.

Wallabies - Hold hands up in front like "doggie paws"

Wombat - Move "doggie paws" in a digging motion

Kangaroos - Hold hands up in front like "doggie paws", then hop

Before Reading

You can introduce the children to the book and explain that it is written in two languages. Do any of the children in your group know more than one language? You could make a list of all the languages that are represented in the group.

You may only be able to read the English version in this book, but you can point out the words that are written in Anindilyakwa (pronounced Anan-dilly-aqua), an Indigenous language specific to the people on Groote Eylandt. You can talk about Australian animals and ask the children if they can name any. If you have a picture or a soft toy of an Australian animal you can share it to help the children build up their vocabulary and understanding of Australian animals before you begin.

During Reading

Talk about the end paper next to the title page. The illustrator Alfred Lalara has painted a map of Bickerton Island in the traditional way, with 2 swordfish around it. He has also depicted a black hand and a white hand, to symbolize “two-way learning:- bilingual education in Anindilyakwa and English.

If you can share both languages, then take your time on each page with both versions of the text. If you are reading the text in English, it is strongly encouraged that you give the Indigenous word for each animal a try. This will enable the children to experience hearing words in a language other than English and to help them to appreciate that each culture has their own words for the same things. You can do this respectfully, highlighting the importance of appreciating our differences. Depending on your setting, you may have children who speak more than one language who may also know the word for an animal that they can share.

Involve the children in guessing what the animal will be based on the action it is doing and the illustration.

After Reading

Listen to story creator Rhoda Lalara read the text in Anindilyakwa. As the children listen you can show the book again

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/walkabout>

Talk about all the animals were in the book. There may be some animals the children haven't heard of before like bowerbird or swordfish. Name each animal and talk about where they were found. You can talk about the sounds that each animals makes. Explore the action of each animal in the story: croaking, hiding, hopping, calling, swimming etc. Can you act out these actions as a group?



Extension Ideas

Read

Read about the author and the illustrator at the back of the book. Learning more about the people who made the story is a great way for children to connect further with the book.

Read more books by Indigenous authors. Use your local public library to help source books to bring in a variety of titles to your setting.

- **Emus under the Bed** by Leann J Edwards
- **Kick with my Left Foot** by Paul Seden and Karen Briggs
- **Little Bird's Day** by Sally Morgan and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr
- **Clever Crow** by Nina Lawrence and Bronwyn Bancroft

Sing

Sing more songs about animals:

Never Smile at a Crocodile

<https://babyrhymes.com/kids-songs/never-smile-at-a-crocodile/>

Galumph went the Little Green Frog

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/baby-karaoke/song-sheets/little-green-frog-galumph->

Native Animal Song

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/baby-karaoke/native-animal-song-with-lyrics>

Going on a bush walk

<https://www.songsforteaching.com/animalsongs/goingonabushwalk.php>

Talk

Talk about the land the story is set on, and if possible show where it is on a map. Groote Eylandt is situated on the Gulf of Carpentaria, 640 kilometres from Darwin. 'Groote Eylandt' is Dutch for Great Island, and the Dutch were the first Europeans to explore and map this region and gave it this name. The Anindilyakwa language is an ancient Indigenous language that is still spoken today on Groote Eylandt by the Warnindilyakwa people

Practice saying the animals' names in Anindilyakwa language.

Play

Go on a Nature Walkabout Treasure Hunt

Explore your area together. Take photos, collect objects, draw pictures, talk about what you find on your walkabout.

You can find an Activity Time nature checklist at the link below. You could use it to help start conversations as you walk together as a group, or use it as a guide to look for things in your environment. There will be many more things to include that are specific to your environment.

https://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/sites/thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/files/files/title_resource/lb_bc_activity_time-23_when_we_go_walkabout.pdf

STEM Focus

Look at the life cycles of some of the animals in the story. Frog and caterpillar have life cycles that can easily be explored with preschoolers.

Print out these free life cycle of a frog cards. Look at the picture and talk about what order they belong.

<https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/no-time-for-flash-cards-frog-life-cycle-no-time-for-flash-cards-.pdf>

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **W is for Wombat** by *Bronwyn Bancroft*
- **With Nan** by *Tania Cox and Karen Blair*
- **One Very Tired Wombat** by *Renee Trembl*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) or your choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!