

# THE FIRST INVENTORS



## EPISODE 4 THE SCIENCE OF STORY

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### STORY 3 **FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH FIRE**

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In Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Senior Knowledge Holder Robert Redford runs one of the world's most respected carbon reduction programs with Senior Djungkayi Bamirrakurlu (Matt Catt) and his family.

Together they care for their Country of over 18,000 square kilometres. Using a carbon reduction program that is now an industrial size operation, the Mimal Rangers have halved their carbon pollution through good fire management. First People's knowledge and modern science are working together here to deliver solutions in our fight against climate change.

## EPISODE 4

### STORY 3



#### Pre-Viewing Discussion Questions

- How do bushfires affect climate change?
- What do you know about trees and carbon?
- Have you heard of the Mimal Rangers and the work they have been doing?

#### Post Viewing Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to reduce fuel loads?
- How can good fire management be a solution for climate change?
- What are your thoughts on the Mimal Rangers doing this work for 25 years and it not being Australia wide yet?

#### Activity Managing Country

Allow your students time to further research the work of [Mimal Land Management](#) and the Mimal Rangers through their website to gain a deeper knowledge of this important work. Ask them to find and read three articles, research papers, reports or watch stories of the Mimal Rangers work and the success of the carbon reduction program that is fighting against climate change and dangerous wildfires.

Using this deeper understanding of how the carbon reduction program works, ask students to write a letter to the Mimal Rangers about their thoughts of the program, thanking them for their work, and asking what their hopes are for the future of the program.

You may find there is a similar program being run in your local Community. If so, write them a letter too thanking them for their work and their fight against climate change.

#### Extension Activity How bushfires release carbon and sustain life

Have your students watch this short animation video [How Trees Capture and Store Carbon](#) so they develop a good understanding of how carbon is trapped in trees and how fires release carbon back into the atmosphere.

Woodland Trust

[How Trees Capture and Store Carbon](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJY3DTaEOsl&ab\\_channel=TheWoodlandTrust](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJY3DTaEOsl&ab_channel=TheWoodlandTrust)

Then, watch this Channel 4 news report Australian wildfires released more CO<sub>2</sub> than annual emissions of Germany to see the real effects of the recent bushfires reported worldwide.

Channel 4

[Australian wildfires released more CO<sub>2</sub> than annual emissions of Germany](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLPruIJx6Cs&ab\\_channel=Channel4News](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLPruIJx6Cs&ab_channel=Channel4News)

Sit in a Yarning Circle and discuss their thoughts and feelings and what they think needs to be done to help fight against climate change in this country.

#### For Deeper Discussion Or Debate

Should we be using the carbon reduction program of the Mimal rangers throughout Australia to reduce fuel loads and wildfires that dump an enormous amount of carbon into the air? How would this benefit the communities around Australia at risk of wildfires every year?

## EPISODE 4 STORY 3



### Teacher Note

Add the book *Fire Country – How Indigenous Fire Management Could Help Save Australia* by Victor Steffensen to your library for your students to read as part of their own self education of First Nations histories and cultures.

### Further Information

#### SBS NEWS

Ten ways climate change is making wildfires worse

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/ten-ways-climate-change-is-making-wildfires-worse/ev04345xh>

#### World Economic Forum

Carbon offsetting is one of the many tools to keep our planet cool

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/10/carbon-offset-climate-change/>

#### World Economic Forum

What is carbon offsetting?

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/06/what-is-carbon-offsetting/>

#### SBS NITV

Female ranger network hopes to be the first to connect women working on country

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/female-ranger-network-hopes-to-be-the-first-to-connect-women-working-on-country/5za0kOuxf>