

THE FIRST INVENTORS



EPISODE 4 THE SCIENCE OF STORY

STORY 4 CONFRONTING THE PAST AND RECONNECTING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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First Nations peoples in Australia have been impacted heavily by past government policies in so many ways that are still felt today and will be for generations.

This four-part series *The First Inventors* shares many of the inventions and wisdom of Knowledge Holders that have been ignored by Western society until very recently. As a nation, we are becoming more aware of the importance of knowing the true history of this country and how combining old science with new science will make a better future for our children and our country.

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Pre-Viewing Discussion Questions

- How are First Nations cultures interconnected?
- Why is it important to know the true history of Australia?
- How can you care for Country?

Post Viewing Discussion Questions

- How can knowing the true histories and knowledge of First Nations peoples help Australia?
- How does Country respect you and look after you?
- How can combining old science and new science make a better future for our country?

Activity Moon halos and predicting weather

Elder Yidumduma Bill Harvey tells the story of the Moon Dreaming and how the Wardaman people predict the weather through this story, that had been passed down for thousands and thousands of generations.

Read this article [Moon Halos and Weather Predictions](#) together as a class. Create a study of moon halos and weather prediction with your class. Over a period of two weeks (when you know rain is coming) ask your students, to go outside at night and document what the moon looks like, take photos and/or draw the moon's halos. Ask them to write down whether they predict big rain or small rain is coming, then look at the weather forecast for the day ahead, and finally cross reference what actually happens. Ask your students to share their individual findings together in small groups and sitting in yarning circles discuss their discoveries of the moon halos.

Telescope Nights

[Moon Halos and Weather Predictions](#)

<https://telescopenights.com/moon-halos-and-weather-predictions/>

Extension Activity The Australian Wars Series

Hearing and learning about the true history of this country is important, as this helps with moving forward together for a better future. Gunditjmara woman Denise Lovett shares a story of her family at Lake Condah Mission and the effects that past government policies had on her people then and now. Truth telling is vital.

To learn more about the Frontier Wars of Australia and the true history of this country mentioned by Denise Lovett in her story, explore the SBS Learn resource *Understanding the Frontier Wars* with your class.

SBS Learn

[Understanding the Frontier Wars](#)

<https://www.sbs.com.au/learn/resources/understanding-the-frontier-wars>

For Deeper Discussion Or Debate

Think of what future you want for Australia. How do you see First Nations knowledges, histories and cultures playing a role in that future?

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Teacher Note

Please use Aboriginal, First Nations and First Peoples when referring to Aboriginal people, as we know language is always evolving and it is preferred today that 'Aborigines' is not used when referencing Aboriginal people.

Use this information about *Australia's First Peoples* from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to guide you.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

[Australia's First Peoples](https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/australias-first-peoples)

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Further Information

How Stuff Works

[Does a ring around the moon mean rain is coming soon?](https://science.howstuffworks.com/nature/climate-weather/atmospheric/ring-around-moon-mean-rain-is-coming-soon.htm)

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/nature/climate-weather/atmospheric/ring-around-moon-mean-rain-is-coming-soon.htm>

Australian Geographic (article)

[Recognising Indigenous knowledges is not just culturally sound, it's good science](https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2022/07/recognising-indigenous-knowledges-is-not-just-culturally-sound-its-good-science/)

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2022/07/recognising-indigenous-knowledges-is-not-just-culturally-sound-its-good-science/>

The Conversation (article)

[How we collaborated in creating The First Inventors to celebrate extraordinary Indigenous peoples' knowledges and technologies](https://theconversation.com/how-we-collaborated-in-creating-the-first-inventors-to-celebrate-extraordinary-indigenous-peoples-knowledges-and-technologies-206666)

<https://theconversation.com/how-we-collaborated-in-creating-the-first-inventors-to-celebrate-extraordinary-indigenous-peoples-knowledges-and-technologies-206666>