

Dreamtime Stories

Using the Theme "The Origin of the Sun"

There is no better way to learn about a topic than by reading stories and then creating your own. In order to write a good story it is important to research as many facts about your topic as possible. The sun is very important to Australia's indigenous culture - look at the Aboriginal flag and see its central significance. In this activity you can learn renewable facts about weather and renewable energy while learning about the culture of our country.

To begin with, read the Aboriginal stories relating to the Origin of the Sun in our information section of this website. Another excellent website to help with this activity is from the National Museum website www.dreamtime.net.au.

The introduction to the stories on this website states very simply the importance of these stories:

"Storytelling is an integral part of life for Indigenous Australians. From an early age, storytelling plays a vital role in educating children. The stories help to explain how the land came to be shaped and inhabited, how to behave and why and where to find certain foods, etc.

Gathered around the camp fire in the evening, on an expedition to a favourite waterhole, or at a landmark of special significance, parents, Elders, or Aunts and Uncles use the stories as the first part of a child's education.

Then, as children grow into young adults, more of the history and culture is revealed. Adults then take responsibility for passing on the stories to the following generations. In this way, the Stories of the Dreaming have been handed down over thousands of years.

All the storytellers you will meet on this site are active in keeping the stories alive and passing them on the next generation.

These are stories of the history and culture of the people, handed down in this way since the beginning of time, since the Dreamtime."

What You Need to Do:

- Research as much information as you can about the sun. Listen to or read Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. Once you have completed your research create your own story to describe the origin of the sun.
- Narrate your story to an audience, or, in a group of friends, act out the story.
- Create a “sunny” character, giving the character a name and visual identity
 - Create stories, storybooks and illustrations about this character.
 - Use this character and its image to create visual creations such as bookmarks and posters to encourage the community to utilise renewable solar energy.
 - You can write letters to and from this character.
 - You can invent family members for their character e.g. Sunny Jim, Solar Sally etc.