

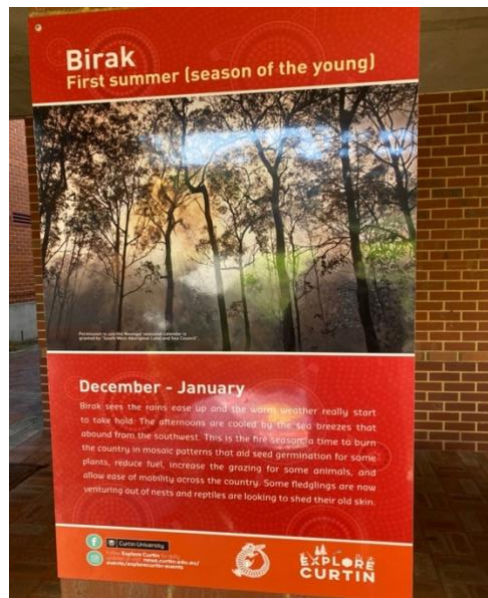
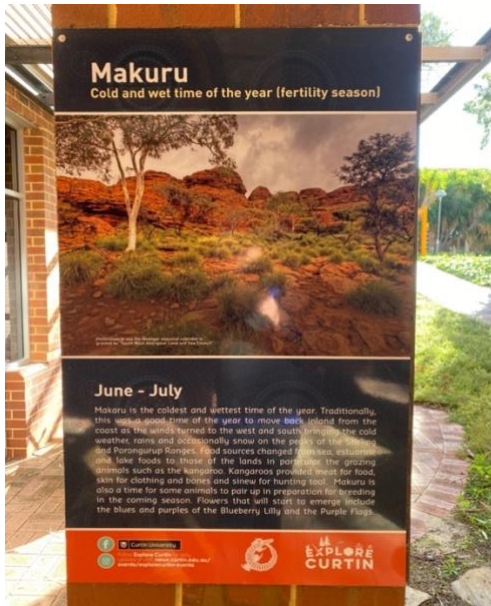
The Noongar people of South Western Australia have resided on and had cultural connections to the *booja*-land of South west Australia for thousands of years. They have a strong spiritual connection to their country. This means caring for the natural environment and places of Cultural significance. The Noongar *lore* relates to ceremonies and to rituals for hunting and gathering when food is abundant and in season. Noongar people have always used their understanding of the six seasons of the South-west to hunt, fish and gather only the most ripe and abundant sources for their needs. The Noongar Elders hold the knowledge of sustainable environmental practices. They hand down this knowledge that observes Noongar *lore* governing the use of the land and resources.

The *booja*-land is deeply connected to the Noongar people.

It is filled with plants that can support them and their animals to thrive.

The women and children were the foragers and gatherers. This was their traditional role.

www.noongarculture.org.au



Tuning in :

Let's go down to the bushland...

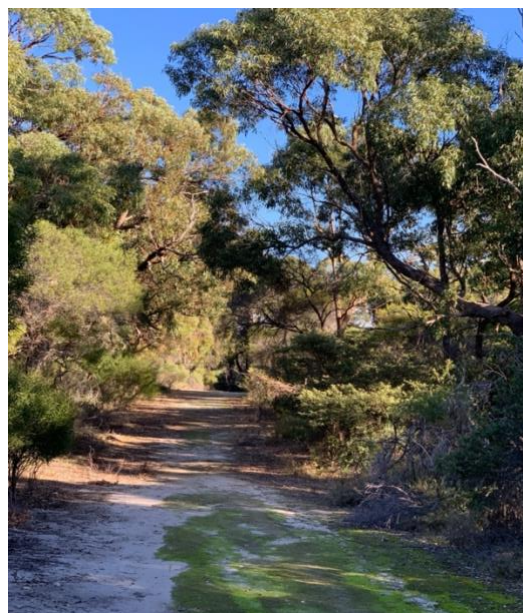
What can we see?

What can we hear?

What can we touch?

What can we smell?

What can we find?



Take Ipad photos of what the students are noticing or get the students to take photos:
Ask them to notice particular:

- Leaves
- Flowers
- Blossom
- Seeds?
- Leaf litter?
- Bullrushes
- Stems
- Roots
- Bees
- Birds

Collect all of the images and make a classroom display:

This is what we found in the bush today.

Finding out:

What plants are flourishing in each Noongar season? There are 6 seasons identified by the Noongar people.

Each season is different.

What is the season now?

Where can you find out?

Can you make a list of the plants and animals connected to this season?

SERCUL website has all of this information

www.sercul.org.au

Noongar Seasons Poster



Sorting out:

Identify a Noongar Season that you and your students will learn more about:

- **Birak: Red:** The first summer: This season runs through December/ January when the warm/ hot days are cooled by afternoon sea breezes. Noongars would burn the land to improve grazing land for the animals that they hunted to eat.
Six seasons stories with Elder Neville Collard: Australian native bees: www.perthnrm.com
- **Bunuru: Yellow:** The second summer. This is the hottest time of the year February through to March. There is little or no rain and the Jarrah and Marri trees are in full bloom
- **Djeran : Orange:** From April to May, this season is when the banksia trees would start to flower and the Noongar people's diet changed to incorporate fish, Frogs and turtles
Scrambled emu eggs: Six seasons stories with Elder Neville Collard: www.perthnrm.com
- **Makaru: Blue : June/ July:** The season is represented by dark blue as it symbolises rain and cold weather. Red meat animals, such as the Kangaroo and emu were hunted in this season, and their feathers and hides were used to ward off the cold. Makaru is the coldest and wettest time of the year in the South west. The flowers starting to emerge are the Blueberry lily and Purple flags.
- **Djilba: Green:** The second rains. The wattles are in full bloom and signal the start of flowering trees and plants blooming across all of the south west. The large birds nest to hatch their eggs.
Wattle and banksia blooms: Six seasons stories with Elder Neville Collard: www.perthnrm.com
- **Kambarang: Lime green:** Through October and November, the landscape is carpeted with wildflowers. The Zanthorrea and Balga [grass tree] start to bloom and the reptiles come out of hibernation. Quandongs and snottygobbles: Six seasons stories with Elder Neville Collard: www.perthnrm.com

Create a Mind map/ Brainstorm of the chosen season:

Ask some key questions:

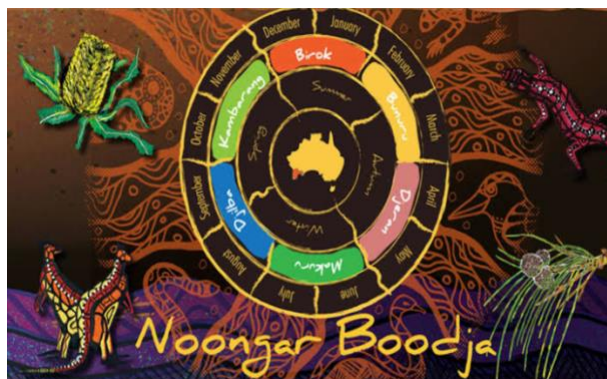
What is the weather like in this season?

What is happening?

Think about the sky, the land and the soil.

What is changing?

What is happening with everything that is growing in that season?



Are there bush tucker plants that the Noongar people harvested in this season?

Where can you find out this information?

Can you ask a Noongar Elder, a parent?

Here are some suggestions:

- Bush tomatoes
- Davidsons plum
- Desert lime
- Finger lime
- Kakadu plum
- Lemon aspen
- Lemon myrtle
- Pepperberry
- Muntries
- Quandong
- Illawarra plum

Going further:

Identify the season that the students will explore as a class:

Choose one.

Then look together at the Traditional Bush tucker plant sheets on the Sercul website.

Sercul.org.au: Bush tucker brochure and fact sheets .

Bush tucker plants for your home/ school garden:

Identify 3 or 4 plants from the season you have chosen and get the students to find out as much as they can about them: There is an excellent resource for educators on the Sercul website.

Each of the plants has information about:

- Family name
- Climate
- Habitat
- Form
- Foliage
- Flower
- Fruit



Get the students to draw the bush tucker plant and make a Bush tucker fact sheet with the above information on it.

There are many ways that the traditional bush food can be celebrated. E.g. Damper, cakes, biscuits, salads, etc.,

What could the students make?

Blueberry Lily

Scientific name: *Dianella revoluta*
Aboriginal name: Mangard (Noongar)



Plant habit
Berry
Open flower

About ...

A hardy evergreen plant which grows in clumps. It sends out horizontal roots (rhizomes) which then send up shoots for a new plant. It can form large, spreading colonies. After fire, plants can regrow from rhizomes under the ground and quickly re-colonise areas.

It is a very hardy plant which is drought and frost resistant. Blueberry Lily grows in many different conditions, in sclerophyll, woodland and mallee forests and is native to the South West of WA and across all other states of Australia except the Northern Territory. The wiry stems, which rise above the foliage, branch into several stems, each with a flower. The flowers open one at a time and last for one day.

It grows in most soil types; however, it prefers soil high in nutrients.

Family HEMEROCALLIDACEAE

Climate Temperate to dry

Habitat Provides a good understory in moist forests, dry woodlands, rainforests and along coastal dunes

Form Clumping
Height: 1 m
Width: 1.5 m

Foliage Strappy, grass-like leaves
Very tough
Grow to about 140 mm long

Flower Kambarrang to Bumaru (Spring to Summer)
Small, purple, blue or lilac
Six petals with a yellow and black centre
Rise above the foliage on wiry stems

Fruit Birak (December to January)
Pale or dark blue-purple
Round in shape
Size: 5 - 15 mm
Fleshy with 3 to 4 small, black seeds
Seeds dispersed by birds.

Aboriginal Uses

- Fruits can be eaten raw; they have a sweet flavour which becomes nutty when seeds are chewed
- Roots can be pounded, roasted and then eaten
- Leaves are used to make string and cord for binding

Then:

Ask the students to come to a class agreement about what they might like to plant as a class in the school Bush tucker garden that represents not only the season that it flourishes in but the fruit, flowers and foliage that make it so appropriate to that season.

Identify what the students will need to do to help this plant to survive.

