

About The Dreaming

It is impossible for us to use words to describe something as spiritual and important as The Dreaming.

To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ***The Dreaming always: has been - is - and will be, in existence.***

The Dreaming provides people with direction on how to live their lives. This is linked with the different way in which ***time*** is viewed.

In the non-Indigenous world we think of time as 'having been', 'is' and 'going to be', that is the 'past', 'present' and 'future'. However, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people time is circular and connected with the past, the present and the future.

There are many layers of knowledge involved in The Dreaming. It is the spiritual link that connects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the Land, the Seas, the Waterways and the Sky.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are told stories that are related to The Dreaming. These stories are often called Education Stories. They do not contain any secret or sacred information.

The young people are encouraged to look for the truth in the stories. From listening to stories related to The Dreaming, young people learn their first lessons about:

- What to believe - spiritual/religious beliefs (known as their 'World View');
- Their Country and how it came to be (known as 'Cosmology');
- How to survive in Country and to appreciate their Country; and
- Their responsibilities and how to behave.

Not every story covers all of these points but each one helps to build up knowledge for young people about traditional 'lore' (wisdom, knowledge, expected behaviours, etc.).

Elders will often say, "The lore is the law" - meaning that people need to follow the teachings of The Dreaming to live their lives in the right way, that is, according to the law.

The stories of the 'Yura Muda', (Adnyamathanha language and culture or 'Dreaming') tell tales of the ancient, spiritual beings through which knowledge is shared about the Land, the traditional law and the guidelines for everyday living.