

Mapping Landscapes: The Story of Gulaga

This is a Dreaming Story told by the Yuin people of the Tilba Tilba region, located on the south coast of New South Wales, Australia. The Story explains the creation of Gulaga (Mount Dromedary), Barranguba (Montague Island) and Najanuga (Little Dromedary). Gulaga is a site of great spiritual significance to the local Yuin people. She is the mother of their ancestors and a symbol of their spiritual identity.

This is the story of Gulaga, the mother mountain. She had two sons called Barranguba and Najanuga.

One day, Barranguba (the older son) decided to move away from his mother. When he told Gulaga what he wanted to do, she told him to move into the ocean nearby. Barranguba could watch the fish and the whales and the dolphins from there, but he would be close enough for Gulaga to keep an eye on him.

So Barranguba went out into the ocean and became an island.

Najanuga (the younger son) saw what his brother had done. He wanted to do the same. When he told Gulaga what he wanted to do, she told him he was too little to go out into the ocean on his own. Gulaga told Najanuga to sit right by her feet, so that she could keep watch over him.

So Najanuga stayed next to Gulaga, watching his big brother out in the ocean. He is the small mountain that sits beside the great mother mountain. He stays with her always, just as she wanted.

Name _____

Date _____

The Story of Gulaga – Comprehension Questions

1. Who is Gulaga? Why is she important to the Yuin people?

2. Why did Gulaga want Barranguba to move into the ocean nearby?

3. What happened when Najanugu asked to move away from Gulaga?

4. What natural landmarks do Gulaga, Barranguba and Najanugua represent?

5. Why do you think the Yuin people tell this Dreaming Story?



Name _____

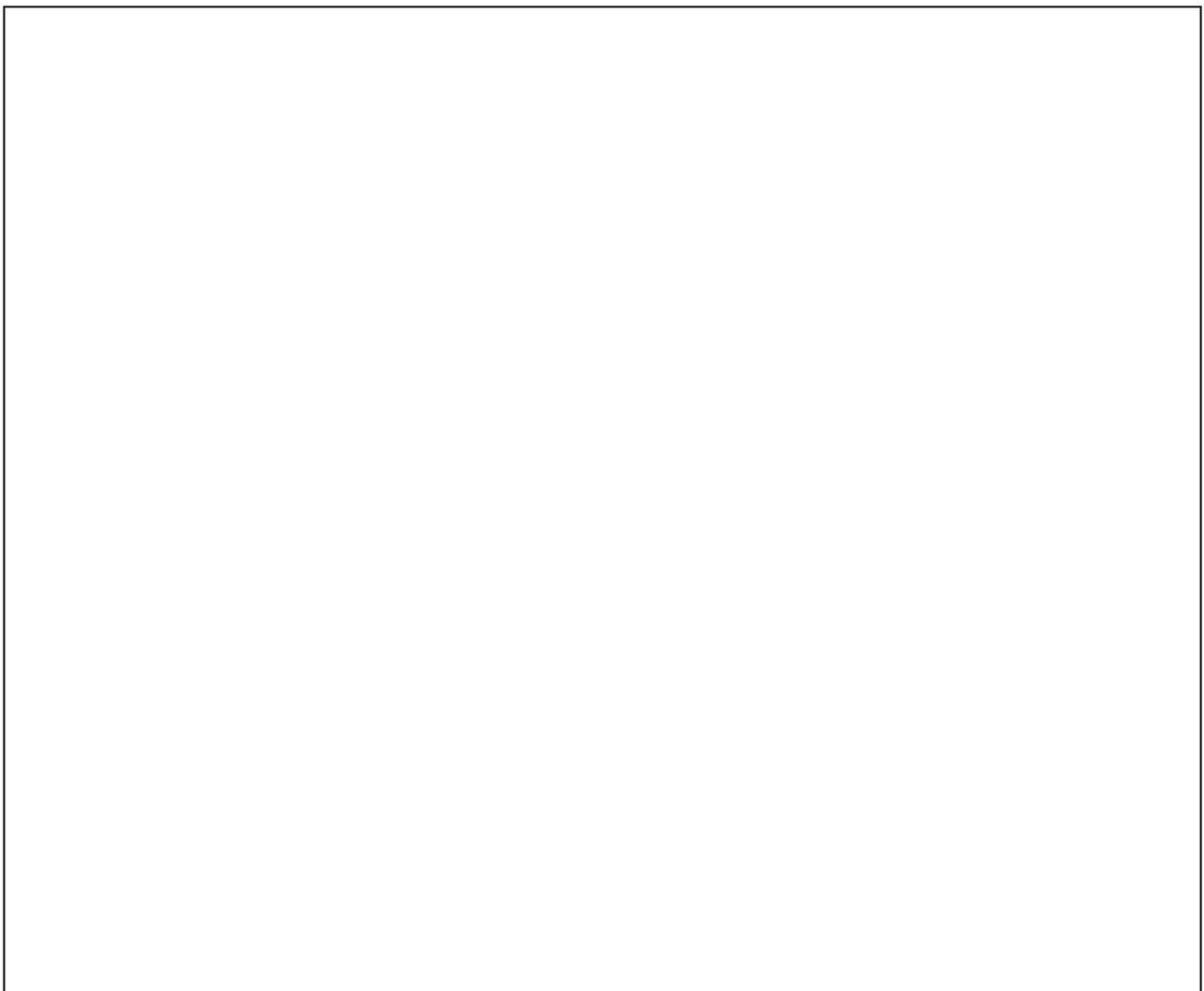
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The Story of Gulaga – Mapping Landscapes Activity

For thousands of years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have mapped the Australian landscape using songs, dances, artworks and stories. These special maps follow the great journeys of the ancestors as they created the land, the animals and the laws of the people.

In the box below, draw and label a map of the Country/Place of the Yuin people, as described in the Dreaming story of Gulaga and her sons. Remember to include:

- Gulaga (Mount Dromedary)
- Barranguba (Montague Island)
- Najanuga (Little Dromedary)
- the ocean.



Answers

1. Gulaga is the mother of the ancestors of the Yuin people. She is a sacred mountain and a symbol of spiritual identity.
2. Gulaga wanted Barranguba to move into the ocean nearby so he could watch the fish, the whales and the dolphins, but be close enough for her to keep an eye on him.
3. When Najanugu asked to move away from Gulaga, he was told that he was too little to go out into the ocean on his own. Gulaga told Najanuga to sit right by her feet, so that she could keep watch over him.
4. Gulaga represents Mount Gulaga (Mount Dromedary), Barranguba represents Montague Island and Najanuga represents Little Dromedary.
5. The Yuin people tell this story to explain the creation of their Country/Place. The story is also an oral map of their landscape.

