

**EXPLAIN**

- 1 Why is groundwater so important to the communities in this region today?
- 2 How do Dreaming stories help map the groundwater in this region?

**INVESTIGATE**

- 3 Use Google Earth and enter the search terms Oodnadatta or William Creek to locate the Oodnadatta Track. Describe the landscape you

see. Why is finding groundwater so important in this **environment**?

- 4 Use an atlas or Google Earth to locate Dalhousie Springs, Birdsville, Lake Eyre and the Diamantina River. See if you can follow the Two Boys Dreaming story and show how following the story saved a lot of time travelling across the desert.

## 13.10 How is water significant to indigenous people?

### 13.10.1 World indigenous cultures

Water is very important to both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples across the world, and is used for many different purposes. Water is important to both groups for different reasons. Water has a spiritual importance to indigenous peoples and they have strong connections with the natural world.

This Indigenous Peoples' Water Declaration shows the importance of water. This declaration came from a meeting in 2008 in north-east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, where a group of indigenous people from around the world met to discuss water management issues.

We, the indigenous peoples from all parts of the world assembled here, reaffirm our relationship to Mother Earth and responsibility to future generations to raise our voices in solidarity to speak for the protection of water. We were placed in a sacred manner on this earth, each in our own sacred and traditional lands and territories, to care for all of creation and to care for water.

*Source:* [www.indigenouswater.org](http://www.indigenouswater.org)

### 13.10.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Depending on where Aboriginal people lived, they traditionally collected surface water from creeks, rivers and waterholes; from underground water supplies such as soaks and springs; or directly from plants, including tree roots.

Recently, evidence collected from oral histories, Dreaming Stories, rock art, artefacts, ceremonial body painting, and historical records left by missionaries, surveyors, settlers and explorers shows that Indigenous Australians managed their water carefully. They channelled and filtered their water, covering it to keep it clean and to stop it from evaporating. They also created wells and tunnel reservoirs.

Aboriginal seasons are closely linked to water. Use the **Miriwoong seasonal calendar** weblink in your eBookPLUS to see an example of one Aboriginal calendar where seasons, water and activities are closely linked.

### 13.10.3 Water and Aboriginal culture

In a report on the cultural values of water for the Anmatyerre people in the Northern Territory it was stated:

Our cultural values of water are part of our law, our traditional owner responsibilities, our history and our everyday lives. Everyone and everything is related. Our law has always provided for the values we place on water. It is the rules for men, women and country. Anmatyerre Law is strong today, but it is invisible to other people. Australian law should respect Anmatyerre Law so we can share responsibility for looking after water.

The rainbow serpent is a key symbol of creation, but its journey from underground to the surface also represents groundwater rising to the top via springs. The creation of water sources and where to find them was often told in stories or through artwork. Use the **How the water got to the plains** weblink in your eBookPLUS to hear one story that describes how billabongs appeared in the dry inland plains, told by Butchulla elder Olga Miller.

#### eBookplus

##### Interactivity Thutirla Pula

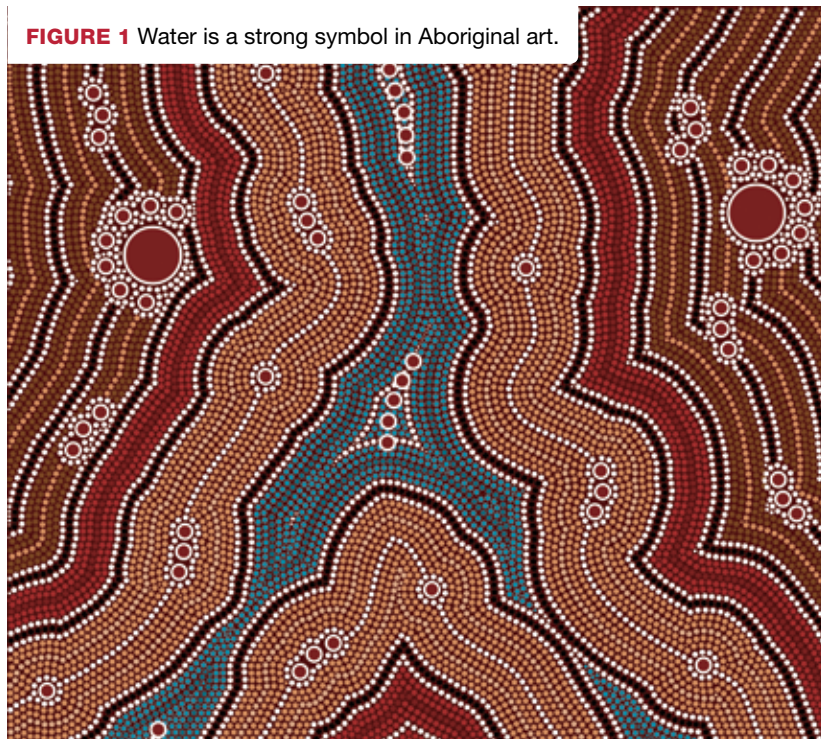
Use this interactivity to check your understanding of how Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians have used groundwater resources in the Lake Eyre region.

**Searchlight ID:**  
int-3079

##### Weblinks

- Miriwoong seasonal calendar
- How the water got to the plains

**FIGURE 1** Water is a strong symbol in Aboriginal art.



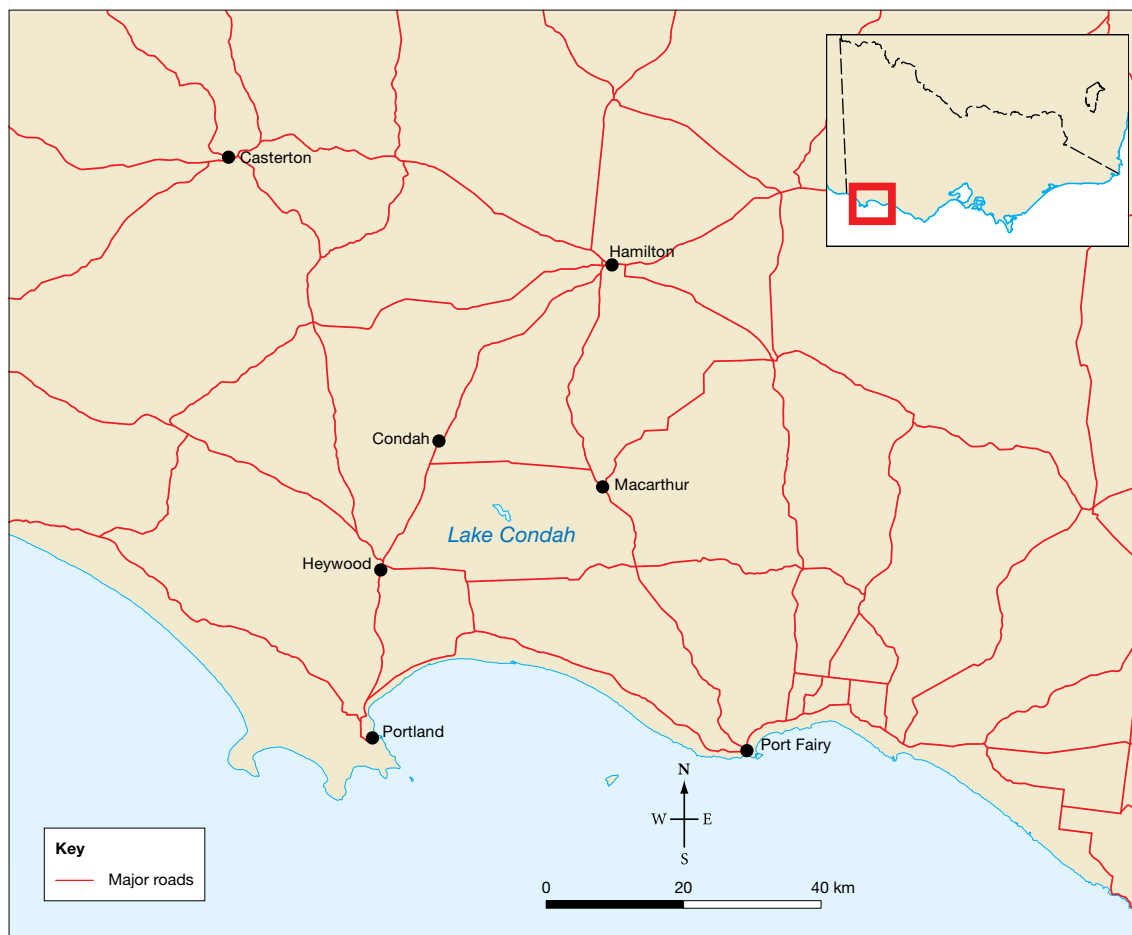
Use the **Water Dreaming** weblink in your eBook-PLUS to hear an interview with artist Malcolm Maloney Jagamara.

**An Indigenous water project**

On 30 March 2008, the Victorian government returned the heritage-listed Lake Condah in Victoria to the Gunditjmara traditional owners. Lake Condah is considered one of Australia’s earliest and largest aquaculture ventures. Aquaculture is the growing and harvesting of animals and plants in a water environment. The Gunditjmara people want to preserve their

culture while engaging in tourism, water restoration and sustainability projects. One example is the plan to restore the ancient stone aquaculture system at the lake for eel farming.

**FIGURE 2** Location map of Lake Condah



Source: Spatial Vision

## ACTIVITIES

### IDENTIFY

- 1 From what sources did Aboriginal people collect water?
- 2 Define *aquaculture*.

### EXPLAIN

- 3 What does evidence show about traditional Aboriginal Australians managing water supplies?

### INVESTIGATE

- 4 Use the **Miriwoong seasonal calendar** weblink in your eBookPLUS to learn more about water seasons and food. How is water closely associated with Indigenous activities in this region?
- 5 Look at the Miriwoong interactive calendar.
  - a Which Australian region does this calendar represent?
  - b How are the seasons divided? How does this compare with a European calendar?
  - c How are seasons and water linked in this calendar?

- 6 Use Google Earth to locate the Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park. Place a pin on this location. Now zoom in and out to help you complete the following.
  - a Where is this park located in South Australia? Where is this **place** in relation to where you live? Use distance and direction in your answer.
  - b What is the name of the nearest road?
  - c Describe the surrounding area.
  - d Why would these springs be so important to Aboriginal people and European explorers?
  - e Do some research to find out why these springs are protected today.
  - f Use Google Maps to annotate this area with your findings. Include photos that you find using the internet.

### APPLY

- 7 Use the **How the water got to the plains** weblink in your eBookPLUS to listen to the Dreaming Story. How is Aboriginal culture closely associated with **place** and **environment**?

## eBookplus

### Weblinks

- Miriwoong seasonal calendar
- How the water got to the plains

# 13.11 What is the aesthetic and social value of water?

## 13.11.1 The value of water

Water can have an aesthetic value. Aesthetics is about to the nature and appreciation of beauty, and can be used to describe the way people respond to the environment. It includes the way people interact with a place through their senses and the emotions they experience.


Water contributes to the visual quality of an environment. Houses and units near rivers, lakes and the ocean tend to be much more expensive than properties some distance from the water. In part, this takes into consideration the aesthetic value of a water view. People enjoy being able to watch the waves breaking, or to watch sailboats on a lake from their homes.

Together with vegetation, water is one of the most important features of an environment in providing emotional and psychological benefits to people. Water is required for basic human survival, and environments that contain a large amount of

**FIGURE 1** Water helps people feel calm and relaxed.



**FIGURE 2** The aesthetic characteristics of water

Water with high aesthetic value	Water with low aesthetic value
<p>Pristine Little odour Clear Transparent Blue or slightly green colour Free from floating debris, scum and oil</p> 	<p>Polluted Smelly Murky Opaque Dark green to brown colour Floating debris, scum and oil</p> 