



Wet and Wild



Traditional uses of the Wet & Wild

2017, Session 1, Week 1 – Clues

Solve 24 clues each week and discover the four organisms they belong to.

This session of Wet & Wild includes our complex and diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. In traditional societies, science and technology were used to sustainably manage the environment for the benefit of all people. It was this and the affinity with their surroundings that was the reason Aboriginal people thrived in some difficult environments. A great variety of resources, tools and weapons were used to harvest plants for food, fibres and medicine as well as to hunt animals for food and clothing.

1. It can take me up to 6 hours to shed my shell as I grow
2. I have dark brown fur with lighter rusty patches
3. I may be brown, green or pale blue and can grow up to 20cm long
4. I am an insect and an important food source for animals
5. I am the only member of my 'Wallabia' genus
6. I can travel over 1500kms during my very short lifespan of 1 year
7. I am found in open forest, thick forest undergrowth and heathland as well as swamps
8. I'm a shrub or small tree and have soft, spongy bark that is shed in sheets
9. I am a scavenger and grasp my prey using claws
10. I grow well close to water and tolerate inundation
11. I live in fresh water and was traditionally gathered in baited, woven fish traps
12. I provide shelter, nesting sites and nectar
13. I migrate south to spend summer in cool rock crevices of the Australian Alps and move north to breed in autumn
14. The Ngunnawal People roast then use stones to grind into a paste; they even have a festival for me
15. An important use is the oil that is found in the leaves and can be used as an antiseptic
16. My bark was traditionally used for bandages, cradles, sleeping mats, shelter and for wrapping food in when cooking
17. My shells have been found in riverside middens
18. I have a wingspan of 50mm with 2 light spots on my wings
19. I am a browser, eating mainly branches and leaves
20. Scientists believe I am very similar to the early ancestors of all kangaroos
21. I fly and feed on flowering gums at night and descend at first light to rest
22. I have 5 pairs of walking legs
23. Part of my common name is derived from the Dharug language
24. I grow in coastal forests on the east coast.