

MY NAME

15th Deadlys State of the Arts page 10

Message Stick ABC TV – Outstanding Achievement in Television

Message Stick won this year's Deadly for Outstanding Achievement in Television. Each week, the half hour episodes explore stories relating to Indigenous Australians.

On Sunday November 1, Message Stick screened *Before Galileo*, where Wardaman Senior Elder Bill Yidumduma Harney talked about the spiritual and practical significance of reading the night sky.

Here's an extract from the Message Stick program.



Bill Yidumduma Harney

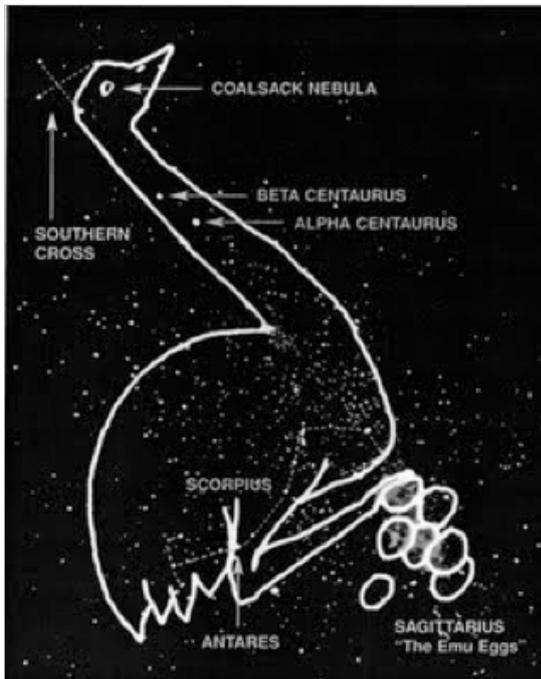
Begore Galileo

In the International Year of Astronomy, astronomers world-wide are celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo turning a telescope to the sky. But way before Galileo, Aboriginal Australians had a sophisticated cosmology linked to their Dreamtime beliefs and creation stories.

From Menngen, near Katherine in the NT, Wardaman Senior Elder Bill Yidumduma Harney was raised by Wardaman lore men and women in the bush during the assimilation era and taught the spiritual and practical significance of reading the night sky.

While non-Indigenous astronomers study the Milky Way, Indigenous people talk about the Emu in the sky. Early in the year you'll just see its head, and the little star in the Southern Cross is the eye of the emu. As the months go by the emu gets bigger and bigger.

When you see the whole emu and it's lying down, that's when the emu is laying eggs and sitting on the nest. Watching the Milky Way tells us when the emus are laying and when they're nesting and that's when we go out for emu egg hunting season.



Activity 1 – Reading for meaning

Read Before Galileo.

Shade one bubble to show the correct answer.

1. 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy.

- TRUE
- FALSE

2. Indigenous Australians knew a lot about the stars a long time before Galileo used the telescope to look at them.

- TRUE
- FALSE

3. Aboriginal Australians had a sophisticated cosmology linked to their Dreamtime beliefs and creation stories. This means that Indigenous Australians

- knew about the stars.
- told Dreamtime stories to explain how the stars and planets moved.
- liked looking at the stars.

4. Many Indigenous Australians know the Milky Way as

- Kangaroo Dreaming.
- the Emu in the sky.
- the Southern Cross.

5. What are some ways that the Indigenous and non-Indigenous understanding of the stars are the same?

Activity 2 - Language conventions - Spelling

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been circled. Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

1. **astonomy** is the study of stars.

2. Astronomers are **sellebrating** the Year of Astronomy.

3. Astronomy is linked to Indigenous creation **storeys**

4. Indigenous Australians can **reed** the stars.

Activity 3

The spelling mistakes on these labels have been circled. Write the correct spelling for each circled word in the box.



beek

fethers

nees

feat

Activity 4

Which of the following correctly completes the sentence?

1. Message Stick won an award at this ***** Deadlys.

- years
- years'
- year's

2. Look at the stars the sky.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| in | on | at | of |

3. Daniel at the sky last night.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| look | looks | looked | looking |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Activity 5 Punctuation

Which sentence has the correct punctuation?

Shade one bubble.

- As the months go by the emu gets bigger and bigger.
- As the months go by the emu gets bigger and bigger?
- As the months go by the emu, gets bigger, and bigger.

Activity 6 - Writing a recount.

There are many stories to explain natural landscapes in your local area.

Retell a story about your local community.

Remember to:

Plan and draft your review before you edit.

Write in sentences.

Pay attention to the words you choose, your spelling and punctuation.

Check and edit your writing when you have finished.