



... MARIONG EMU ...

Emus are large flightless birds, they are the second largest bird on the planet, with long necks and long legs and rudimentary wings. They can run up to 50kph.

Emus are found over most of the mainland, particularly in pastoral areas but it is seldom seen in unsettled arid areas or rainforests and never in heavily populated areas. They are nomadic, remaining in one place only when food and water are available. They can travel hundreds of kilometres each year.

1. What do Emus eat?

Emus are omnivores. They mainly eat the leaves, fruits, flowers and shoots of the native plants but will also eat insects, rodents and lizards.

2. Why do Emus sometimes swallow small rocks and pebbles?

Swallowing small rocks and pebbles helps with the grinding of food in the stomach and accelerates digestion.

3. Can Emus swim?

Yes! Emus are excellent swimmers. They can easily cross rivers while looking for food and new feeding areas.

4. Who raises the chicks, the male or the female?

The male! The female Emu will lay on average 5-15 eggs. After she has finished laying, the female wanders off and has nothing more to do with her offspring. The male then takes over the care of the eggs. He incubates them for 60 days, during which time he rarely leaves the nest and scarcely eats. Once the chicks hatch the male will care for them until they are around 18 months of age.

5. How long do Emus live for?

In the wild Emus live for around 5-10 years. Those on captivity have a longer life expectancy.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

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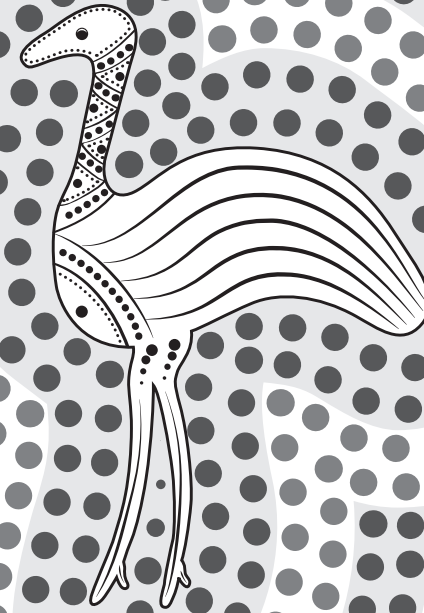
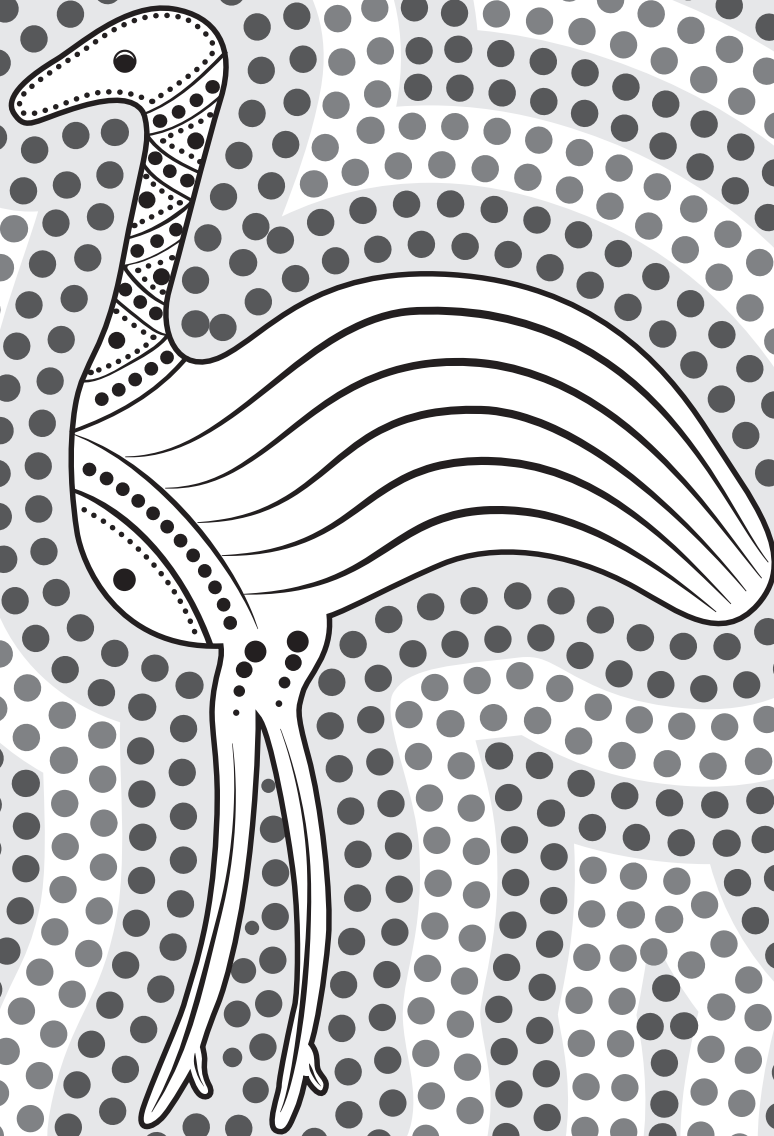
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MARIONG



... GIWA FISH ...

The Yellowbelly, also known as Golden Perch, Callop and Murray Perch, is a medium-sized, yellow or gold-coloured Australian freshwater fish species found primarily in the Murray-Darling River system.

Naturally they can be found on the western side of the Great Dividing Range in the Murray Darling basin which spreads from central western Queensland, down through New South Wales, into the Australian Capital Territory, across much of Victoria and then into the south eastern part of South Australia. With the Murray Darling basin covering 14% of Australia's land mass the Yellowbelly are easily one of the most widespread native species.

1. How can you identify a Yellowbelly

Adult yellowbelly or perch are moderate to large in size and are bronze, olive green to brownish in colour overall with a yellow ventral surface. The forehead is distinctly concave above the eyes and the lower jaw is protruding.

2. How big do these fish get?

The adult Yellowbelly commonly grows between 30–50cm long and weighs up to 5kg, but average 1–2 kg in rivers. The biggest found in a natural river system has been recorded at 9 kg.

3. What kind of water environment do they prefer?

Variety of environments, but most frequently occurs in warm, muddy inland waters and associated backwaters and billabongs. A tolerant fish is able to withstand water temperatures of 4 to 37°C.

4. What do you Yellowbelly fish eat?

The adult Yellowbelly is a carnivore, feeding on smaller fish and macro-crustaceans, including yabbies, shrimp, frogs, small fish, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates. Juveniles feed on zooplankton (microscopic animals)

5. How many eggs does a Yellowbelly fish lay?

Females between 2.2 and 2.4 kg produce about half a million eggs per spawning event, with fish above 2.5 kg producing well in excess of this number. The eggs are generally hatch fairly quickly (24 to 36 hours).

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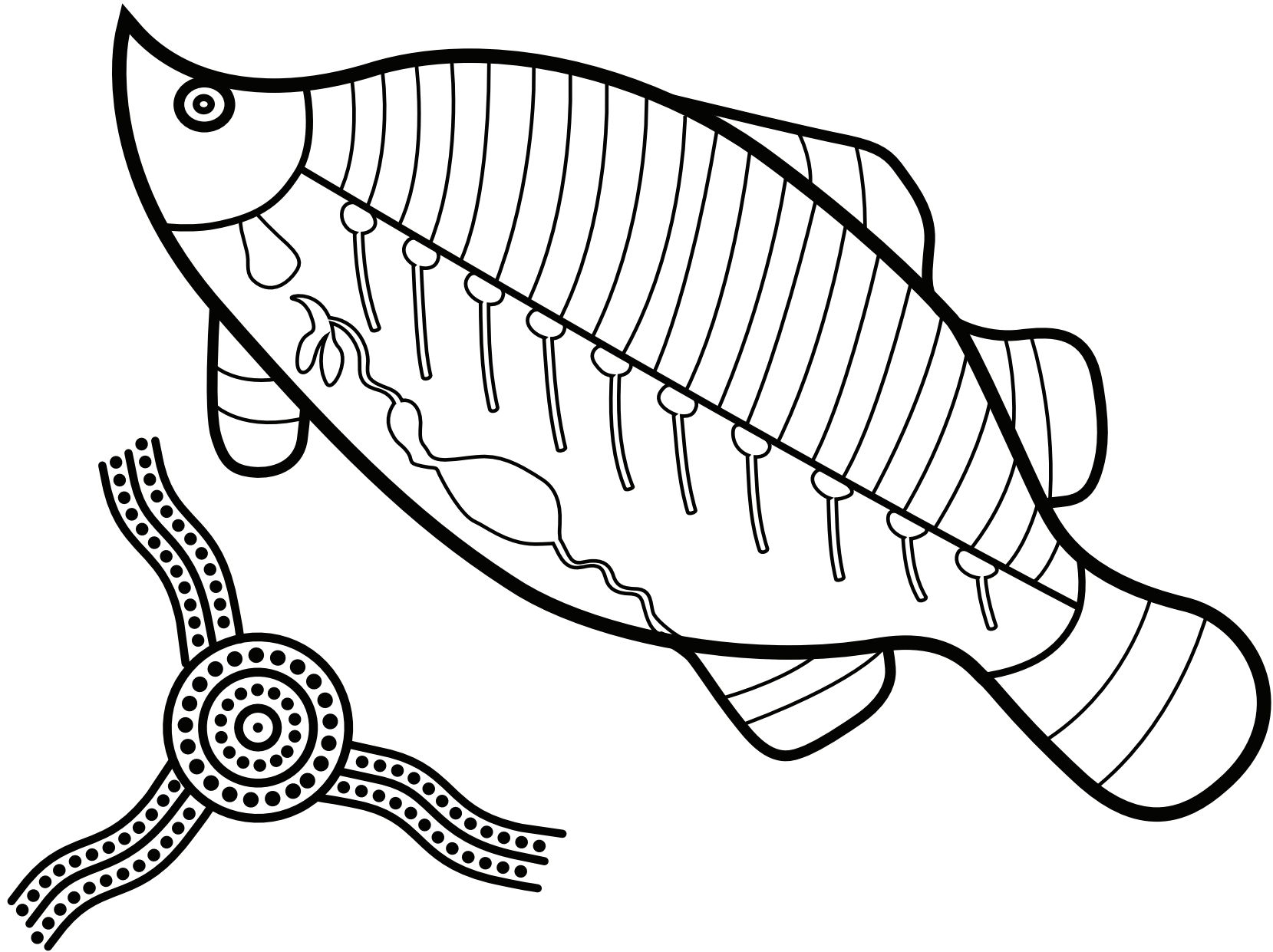
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GIWA



... GULA KOALA ...

Koalas spend most of their life in trees. They sleep most of the day, usually in a fork in the upper third of the tree.

Koalas are solitary animals, only rarely are two animals found in the same tree, except during mating or when a female is carrying a young Koala. Koalas do not use nests or tree hollows for shelter but have an extremely well insulated coat. Because of the absence of a den the young is carried on its mothers back until it grows to about 2kgs in weight.

Why do some people call Koalas 'Koala Bears'?
When Europeans first came to Australia, they thought that koalas looked like bears and in fact thought that they were bears so they were often called 'Koala Bears'. Koalas are not bears—they are marsupials and their correct name is 'Koala'.

How long does a Koala live for?
How old do you think the oldest known koala is? In the wild in undamaged habitat, the average lifespan of a Koala is about 10 years. However where habitat is damaged, such as in suburban areas, they may only live for a few months or years because of the dangers from cars and dogs. The oldest known Koala was a female who lived in a zoo and lived to be 23 years old!

Why do Koalas sleep so much and how many hours does a Koala sleep in a day?

They sleep a lot to conserve energy as their diet requires a lot of energy to digest and they usually sleep for 18 to 22 hours a day.

How many types of eucalyptus leaves do they eat?

There are approximately 900 species of eucalyptus in Australia—Koalas are known to feed on approximately 40–50 of these species depending on locality. Of this 40–50 they prefer to limit their diet to about 10.

How endangered is a Koala? Is it at risk of extinction?

Research indicates that the Koala is in trouble and that extinction of local populations has already occurred. Before European settlement there were thought to be millions of Koalas present throughout Australia. Now it is believed there could be less than 80000 remaining today, possibly as few as 43000. If this rate of decline continues then yes, the Koala is at risk of extinction. Habitat loss and fragmentation through urbanisation and resulting impacts—such as car strikes and dog attacks—are the most common causes of Koala deaths. Disease is also a key factor.



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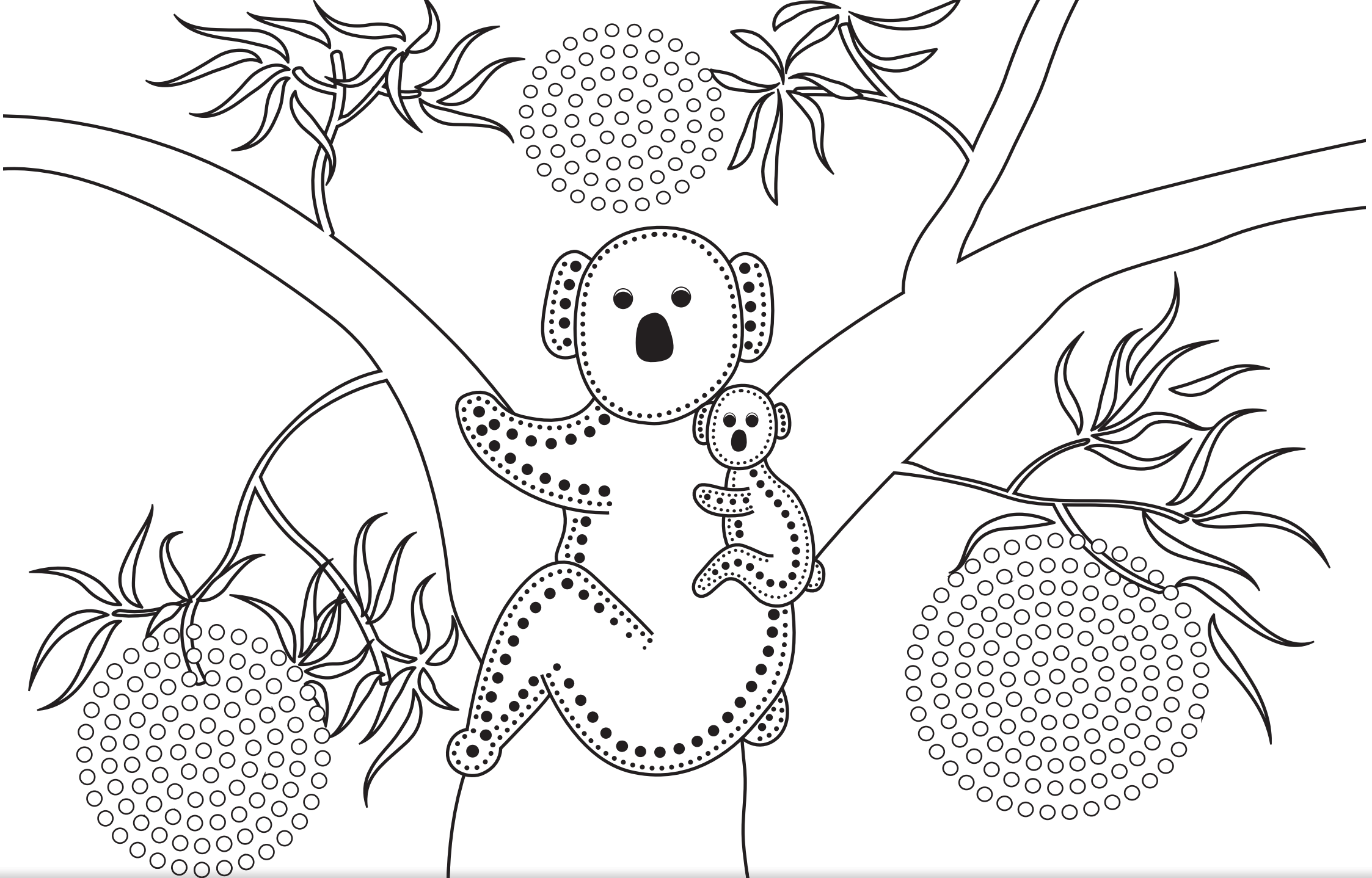
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GULA





... KUTUKULUNG ... FRESHWATER TURTLE

The Kutukulung Freshwater turtle is also known as the Eastern Long Neck Turtle or Snake Neck Turtle.

Australia is home to about 23 different species of native freshwater turtle. There are 7 of these species that live in NSW with the Eastern Long Neck being one of the most common.

1. Where do turtles live?

Eastern Long Neck Turtles spend most of their time in rivers, lakes, swamps and ponds, including farm dams. However they sometimes come onto land to migrate between bodies of water or to lay their eggs.

2. How many eggs do you think a turtle lays?

Eastern Long Neck Turtles lay on average around 16 eggs. Some make their nests on the banks of the water where they live, while others can travel up to a kilometre to find the perfect place to make a nest.

3. How many teeth does a turtle have?

None! Eastern Long Neck Turtles have no teeth. They ambush their prey and strike with their mouths open, drawing in large amounts of water containing their prey. Turtles have to be submerged in water to be able to eat.

4. What do turtles eat?

Turtles are self-sufficient at birth, meaning they can look after and feed themselves without any help from their mother as soon as they hatch. They are carnivorous and their diet mainly consists of small fish, tadpoles, yabbies, worms, snails and other small aquatic invertebrates such as mosquito larvae.

5. How long do turtles live for?

Eastern Long Neck Turtles can live up to and over 50 years of age. Before the babies even hatch they face threats from introduced species such as foxes and wild pigs raiding nests and consuming eggs. The baby turtles that hatch from the remaining eggs have to contend with turtle-eating fish, birds and other predators. Adult turtles are protected by their shells from most natural predators while they are in the water but when they venture onto land they can be killed by dogs, foxes or pigs, or crushed by motor vehicles. The main reason these ancient reptiles are diminishing in numbers though is from human impact.

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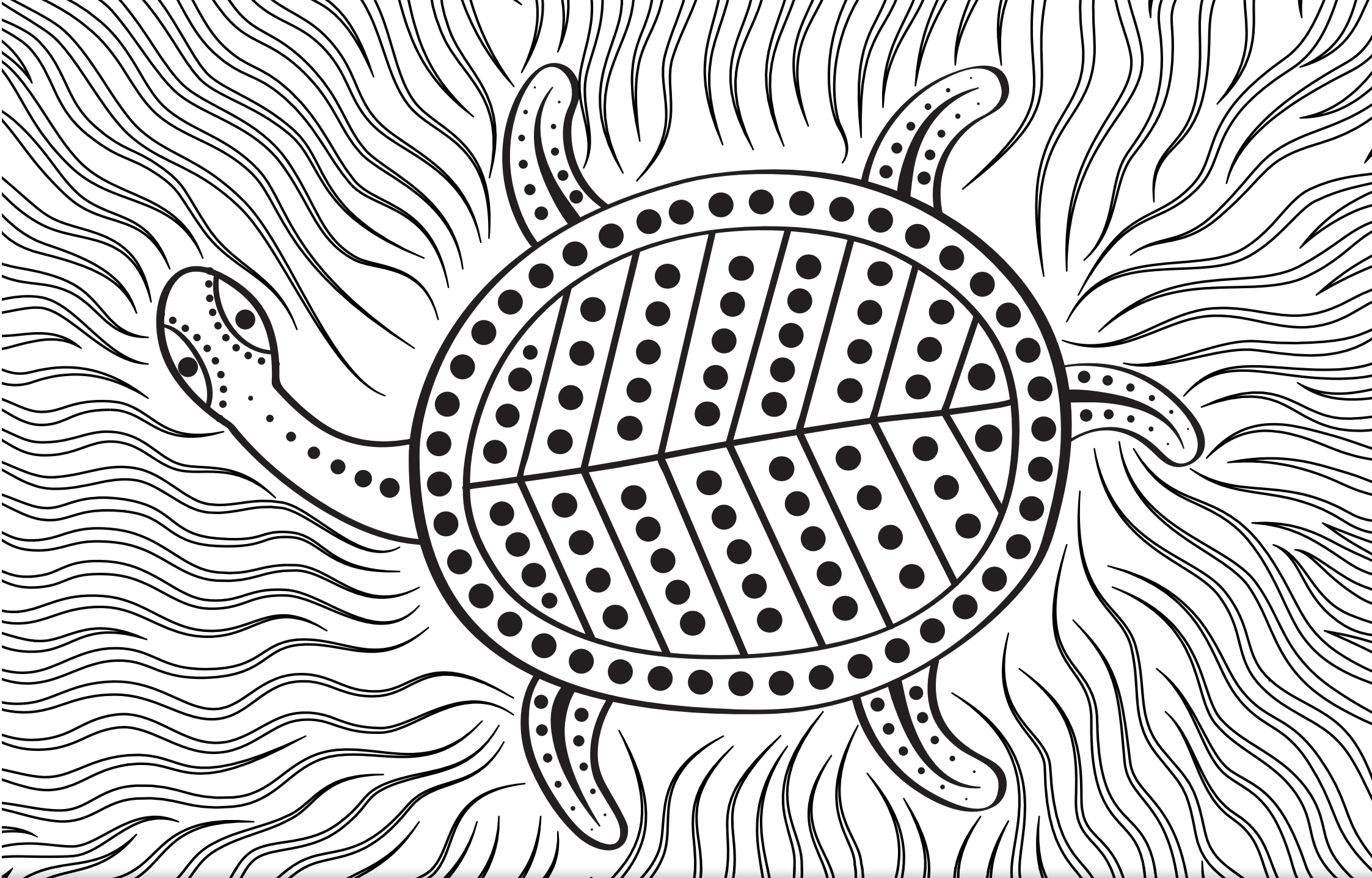
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KUTUKULUNG



... BADANG PLATYPUS ...

Platypuses are one of the only mammals to lay eggs and have no teats, though-like all other mammals-they do produce milk for their young.

Ducts open onto two circular patches on the mothers belly and the young lap the milk that is secreted from there.

Because few people are fortunate enough to see a platypus in the wild, there is a misconception that this shy creature is rare, but in fact the species is quite common, though it is regarded as vulnerable because it relies on healthy freshwater systems, which are threatened by human development and pollution.

1. Where do Platypuses live?

Platypuses live in permanent freshwater streams, rivers and lakes in Eastern Australia. They can withstand conditions from the hot humidity of tropical rainforests to the snowy winters of high altitudes. When not in the water they live in burrows dug into the banks of watercourses.

2. Is the Platypus bill the same as a ducks bill?

No! Unlike a ducks bill the platypuses' bill is pliable and very sensitive. The skin contains electroreceptors which it uses to detect electricity in its prey.

3. What do Platypuses eat?

Platypuses eat insects, molluscs, crustaceans and sometimes frogs. They store their catch in their cheek pouches until they surface and they then float while they grind the food between hard plates on their upper and lower jaws.

4. Are platypuses venomous?

Yes! Males have a spur on the back of their hind feet that is connected to a venom-secreting gland. They become active at maturity and are largest in the breeding season so it is believed that they use them as a weapon for self-defence and when fighting over breeding territories and females. The venom is strong enough to easily kill small animals but it is not life threatening to adult humans although it can cause severe swelling and excruciating pain.

5. How many babies does a platypus have?

Female platypuses have up to three young at a time, she has no pouch and it is thought that she lies on her back to incubate the eggs between her stomach and her curled up tail.

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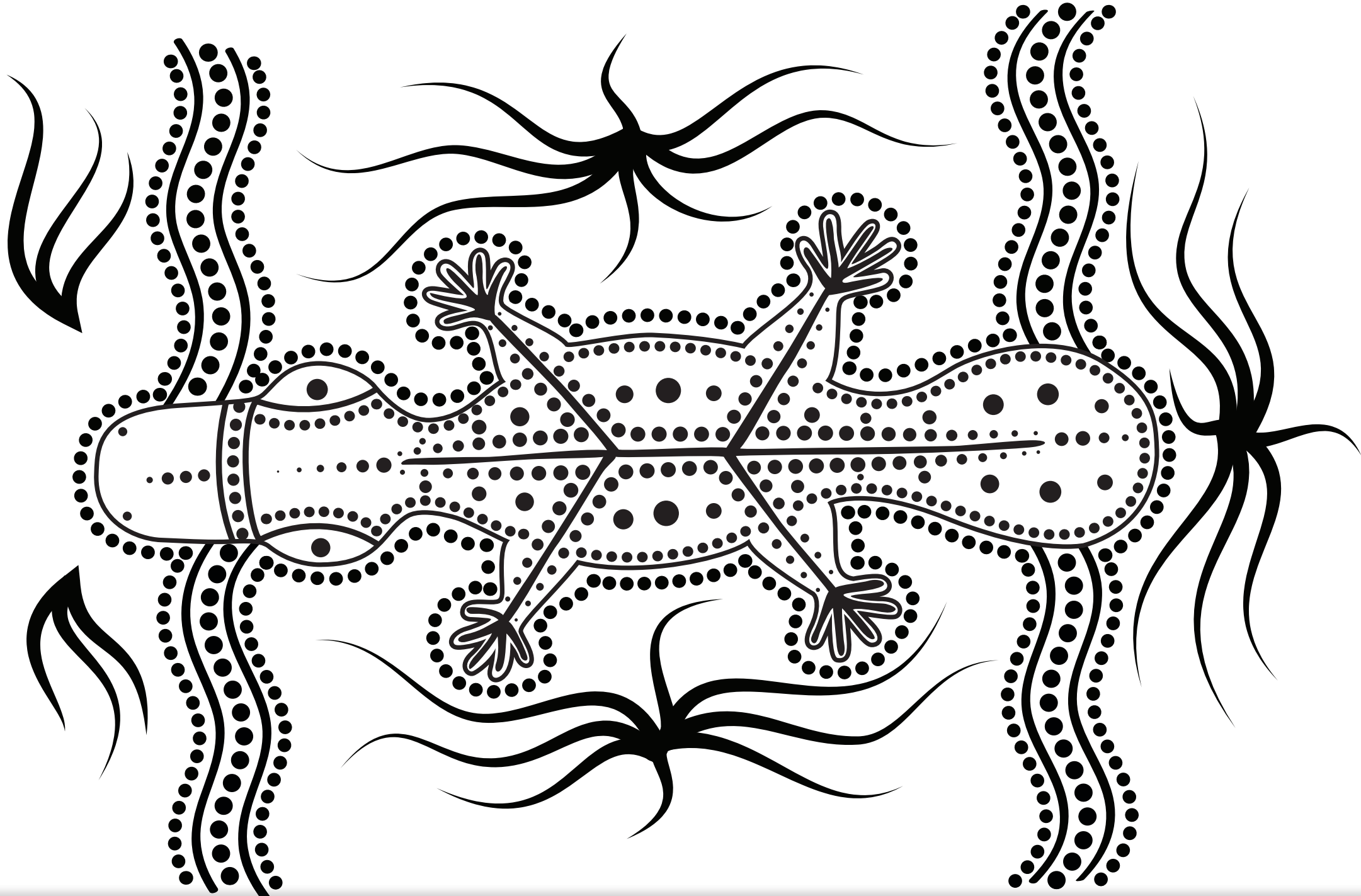
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BADANG





.... KAAN SNAKE

Most of the world's most venomous snakes are found in Australia.
The Red-Bellied black Snake is one of the most common snakes
in South-Eastern Australia.

The Kaan Snake is also known as the Red-Bellied Black Snake or Common Black Snake. Males grow much larger than the females, sometimes exceeding 2 metres in length.

Red-Bellied Black Snakes are generally shy and if disturbed they usually try to escape. If cornered they defend themselves by flattening their neck into a hood and swinging their head and neck in a wide arc close to the ground, meanwhile hissing loudly and making sweeping sideways strikes.

Most snake bites in Australia are caused by people trying to kill the snake rather than letting it slither away.

1. How can you identify a Red-Bellied Black Snake?

Red-Bellied Black Snakes are glossy black on top and mainly bright red on its lower sides. Its underside is a duller red or pink and the underside of its tail is black.

2. Where do Red-Bellied Black Snakes live?

This snake is most active during the day and can also sometimes be seen on hot evenings.

It shelters in hollow logs, thick vegetation and animal burrows or under large rocks. It is usually seen on the edges of creeks, swamps and lagoons.

3. How deadly is a Red-Bellied Black Snake?

The Red-Bellied Black Snake is somewhat less venomous than many other Australian snakes but their bites still cause significant illness and require medical attention. The venom can cause local tissue damage and can be fatal if not treated.

4. What do you Red-Bellied Black Snakes eat?

Red-Bellied Black Snakes eat frogs, mice, lizards and smaller snakes and sometimes hunts underwater for eels and tadpoles.

5. How many eggs does a Red-Bellied Black Snake lay?

They lay between 4-19 eggs but are different from other snakes because the female retains the eggs in her body until they are almost ready to hatch. This allows the female to speed up incubation in cool climates by basking.

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KAAN

