

From Little Things Big Things Grow



UPPER PRIMARY



From Little Things Big Things Grow is a song written by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody. It is based on the true story of **Vincent Lingiari**, an elder of the **Gurindji** people, whose actions not only helped raise public awareness of Aboriginal land rights but also began the process of **Reconciliation** in Australia.

*Taken from 'From Little Things Big Things Grow'
(P. Kelly & K. Carmody, 1992)*

*Gather round people and I'll tell you a story,
An eight year long story of power and pride.
British Lord Vestey and Vincent Lingiari,
Were opposite men on opposite sides.*

*Vestey was fat with money and muscle,
Beef was his business, broad was his door.
Vincent was lean and spoke very little,
He had no bank balance, hard dirt was his floor.*

*Gurindji were working for nothing but rations,
Where once they had gathered the wealth of the land.
Daily the pressure got tighter and tighter,
Gurindju decided they must make a stand.*

*They picked up their swags and started off walking,
At Wattie Creek they sat themselves down.
Now it don't sound like much but it sure got tongues talking,
Back at the homestead and then in the town.*

*Eight years went by, eight long years of waiting,
Till one day a tall stranger appeared in the land.
And he came with lawyers and he came with great ceremony,
And through Vincent's fingers poured a handful of sand.*

*That was the story of Vincent Lingiari,
But this is the story of something much more.
How power and privilege can not move a people,
Who know where they stand and stand in the law.*

From little things big things grow.

In 1966 several hundred Aboriginal workers and families left the **Wave Hill Station** in the Northern Territory after disputes over living conditions, low wages and long hours. The station was operated by **Lord Vestey** for his family's meat company.

Lingiari and the Gurindji people went on strike for eight years, setting up camp at nearby **Wattie Creek**. Vincent Liangiari traveled all over Australia to raise awareness and support for the strike. The Gurindji people were asking for **traditional ownership** of around 500 square miles of Wave Hill Land to be recognized - a very controversial demand.

The Gurindji won their claim in 1975 when **Prime Minister Gough Whitlam** brought the struggle to an end by pouring a handful of sand through Vincent Lingiari's hands. Whitlam's words at the ceremony were "Vincent Lingiari, I solemnly hand to you these deeds as proof, in Australian law, that these lands belong to the Gurindji people and I put into your hands part of the earth itself as a sign that this land will be the possession of you and your children forever."

This symbolic gesture was seen as one of the first acts of Reconciliation between **Indigenous Australians** and the wider society.

1. Vincent Lingiari was an elder of which people? _____
2. Why did the Aboriginal workers leave Wave Hill Station? _____
3. In the song, who was the 'tall stranger'? _____
4. Why do you think the Gurindji people's claim of traditional ownership was controversial? _____
5. Why do you think a handful of sand was poured through Vincent Lingiari's hand? _____
6. Think about the title of this song. What do you think it sets out to say? _____
7. What do you understand by the term 'Reconciliation'? _____

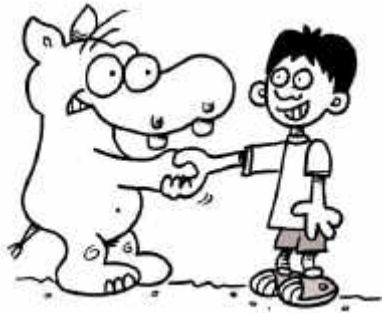
Kurna Place Names.

The Aboriginal people had lived in Australia for many thousands of years before the arrival of European people. Despite similarities, different Aboriginal groups had distinctive cultures and languages. The Kurna people have strong ties to the Adelaide Plains and many now-familiar place names have Kurna origins.

| Kurna: | Meaning: | Answer: |
|---------------|---|---------|
| Ngurlongga | Place of cohabitation. | _____ |
| Willangga | 'willa'= scrub, 'ngga'= place | _____ |
| Karikalingga | A camp near a swamp. | _____ |
| Tarndanya | Red kangaroo place. | _____ |
| Maitpangga | Divorced wife. | _____ |
| Womma Mukurta | Mountain on the plain. | _____ |
| Yankalyalla | Falling – from an incident in the Tjilbruke legend. | _____ |

Present-day name:

Myponga
Noarlunga
Willunga
Yankalilla
Carrickalinga Head
South Adelaide area
Mount Barker



Antonym Grid. An antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning to another word. Circle all the words in the grid. Then write each one beside its antonym.



- cold _____
- tiny _____
- dull _____
- sad _____
- lose _____
- destroy _____
- shallow _____
- awake _____
- lost _____
- beautiful _____

Work It Out!

- $12^2 =$ _____
- $14^2 =$ _____
- Days in 9 weeks? _____
- Cm in 4 metres? _____
- Months in 7 years? _____
- 8 in Roman numerals? _____
- $7 \times 9 + 7 \div 2 =$ _____
- $4 \times 8 \div 2 \div 4 \times 9 =$ _____
- 208, 104, 52, _____, 13
- 1, 3, 6, 10, _____, 21



Decimals. Set out these sums carefully and answer on a new piece of paper. Please show all working out.

- 345.67×93
- $346.85 \div 7$
- $110\,405.05 - 89\,766.5$
- $\$987.75 + \369.85
- 56.3×3.24
- $8.4 + 12.76 + 0.913 + 37.99$

Design.

Design a poster to celebrate 'Reconciliation Week'. Consider what makes a poster appealing (bold title, strong images, catchy slogans). Think about the things you could include to reflect the Reconciliation theme.

Brainstrain.

Eugene left home at 6:45am and arrived at the city at 9:15am. If his average speed was 85 km per hour, how far did he travel?



Eugene's Challenge.

- Collect from your teacher a copy of the full version of 'From Little Things Big Things Grow'.
- Use the text to create an illustrated story. For example, you could take each verse and present it in comic strip form.

Parents signature: _____