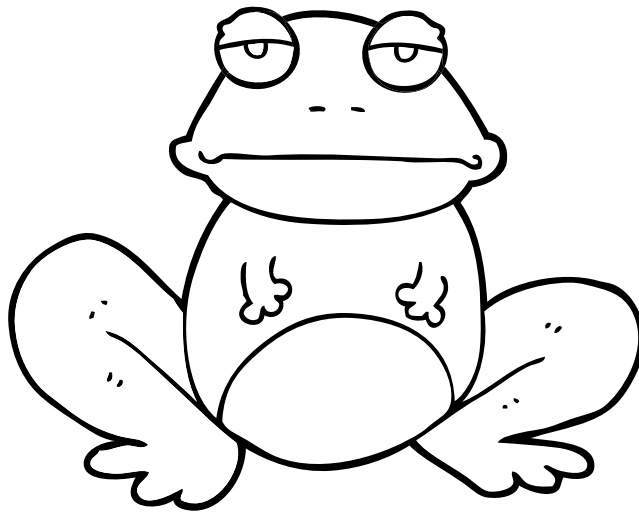


Tiddalick The Frog

Australia's First Nations
Dreamtime Story



Once upon a time, a long time ago, in the Dreamtime, lived a frog called Tiddalick. Tiddalick was the largest frog in the entire world.

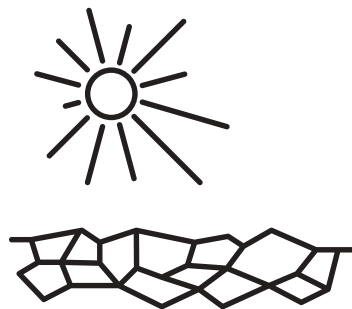
One very warm morning, he woke up feeling very, very thirsty and started to drink the fresh water.

He drank and he drank and he kept drinking until all the fresh water in the entire billabong was gone!



When the other animals arrived
at the billabong to get their
morning drink, they found it
was all dried up.

This made them very sad. They
knew Tiddalick the frog had
drunk all the water.



They knew they needed to
come up with a plan to get the
water back, but they didn't
know how.

They thought and they thought
and they thought, until they
realised that the best way to
get the water back was to make
Tiddalick laugh!

If they could make him laugh
then all the water would come
spilling out of his mouth and
back into the billabong!



The first animal to try and
make him laugh was the
echidna.

She rolled herself up into a
tight little ball and rolled down
the bank of the billabong like a
bowling ball!

The kangaroo laughed and so
did the emu,
but Tiddalick didn't laugh.



The next animal to try and
make Tiddalick laugh was the
wombat.

The wombat stood up on his
hind legs and danced around in
a circle until he fell over in the
dirt!

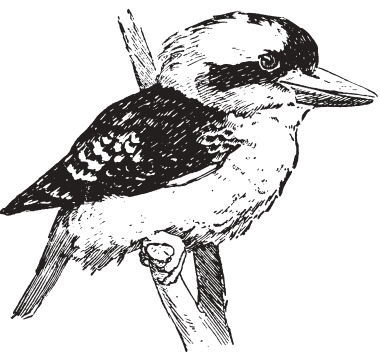
The galah laughed and so did
the goanna,
but Tiddalick didn't laugh.



The next animal to try and
make Tiddalick laugh was the
kookaburra.

She perched herself on a
branch close to Tiddalick and
told her funniest story.
It was so funny that she burst
out laughing!

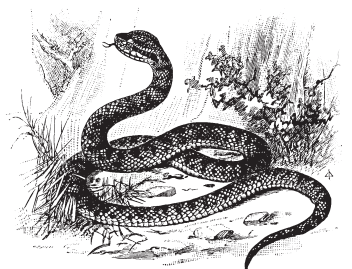
But Tiddalick didn't laugh.
He just sat there with his big
belly
full of all the water.



Finally, the snake decided to try
and make Tiddalick laugh.

She started to dance.
Wriggling and squirming all
over the ground, until she
eventually tied herself into a
knot.

The knot was so tight that she
struggled and struggled to
untie herself,
but she was stuck!



Tiddalick watched her struggle around, trying to untie herself, and he let out a small chuckle.

That small chuckle turned into a rumbling in his tummy before it turned into a great big belly laugh!

The water came gushing out of his mouth and filled the billabong back up once again.

All the animals jumped with joy as they took big, long, gulps of water to quench their thirst.

