



**The six Noongar Seasons directed traditional ways of life for all Noongar peoples and the Wadjuk Noongar people were no different.**

The Noongar people lived in balance with the natural environment, the main source of food came from the sea, the Swan River and the extensive system of fresh water lakes that once lay between the coast and the Darling Escarpment. Whadjuk Noongar groups identify many elements of the Swan River system as being of special spiritual significance, giving a sense of ownership and identity with their surroundings.

Before European settlement they were connected to the land and had an in-depth knowledge of what it contained. The Noongar people knew what grew, where and at what time of the year it was available for harvest and these lessons about their 'country'; were passed down from one generation to another largely by oral tradition. (South West Aboriginal Land Sea Council).

The way to use and care for the land was 'written' into stories and songs of the Dreaming (Cherikoff 1994:24). Knowledge from the Dreaming taught people how the spirit beings made foods and medicines from the bush as well as formed the lakes, rivers and mountains.

Six Seasons knowledge supports this and provides plentiful Noongar language, cultural and environmental learning opportunities:

**USE this resource chart in conjunction with the [SERCUL 6 Seasons calendar](#) to embed the following learning activities:**

- 1. Learn the names of the Seasons - insert students' birthdays into this Noongar 6 seasons chart to identify with these seasonal concepts.**
- 2. Learn the colours of these seasons - they reflect the environmental conditions, rains & weather, heat, fires, fruiting and flowering plants, fishing and hunting possibilities and Noongar movements and rituals. Refer to [Kurongkurl Kaartidjin](#) & [Noongar Boodjar](#) for colour & Kala language & [BOM for Noongar weather](#)**
- 2. Learn some traditional ecological knowledge including names of plants in the seasons - [Perth NRM](#)**
- 3. Learn ways animals were important to Wadjuk Noongar at certain times in the season. Learn the names in the [Noongar dictionary](#)**
- 4. Match the animals to the seasons in which they are most active. [Little Green Steps WA](#).**
- 5. Research the significance of animals and plants as totems to the Whadjuk people. A totem links a person in a relational way to their landscape.**
- 56. Apply this knowledge on a bush walk on Whadjuk country using The [Whadjuk trails network app](#)**

This information has been acquired from the following sources - Kaartidjin Noongar, Kurongkurl Kaartidjin, Sercul, Perth NRM & Little Green Steps WA, [Plants & People of Mooro Country](#). Noongar books and lessons are available to learn pronunciations of Noongar vocabulary shown here



## THE NOONGAR SIX SEASONS - RESOURCE CHART

Noongar Seasons	Equivalent	Colours/Weather & Temperatures	What months ?	Noongar activities	Animals hunted and utilised	Bush foods in flower
Birak	Spring/Summer or 1st Summer	Orange ( <i>mirda yoont</i> ) Hot & dry	Dec/Jan	Wild fires flushing out animals, move to the coast, fur from possum woven into belt	Wallabies, lizards, snakes ( <i>Moyop</i> ), quendas, possum, eggs, cockatoo ( <i>karaak</i> ), echidna ( <i>nyingarn</i> ) flushed out by fires	Yellow banksia used to make mungitch drink, balga flowering stems eaten
Bunuru	Summer or 2nd summer	Red ( <i>mirda</i> ) Hot easterly winds	Feb/March	Long days fishing along coast & hunting coincides. Bark from Tuart used to make containers	Abalone, cobbler, Black bream ( <i>djilba</i> ) , mullet	Tuart flower & Bull Banksia flowers sucked for nectar
Djeran	Autumn	Green ( <i>nodjam-dardong</i> ) Cooler	April/May	Preparations for winter – Mia Mias fixed, booka (kangaroo cloaks) made season of marriage and courtship	Kangaroo, fish Magpie ( <i>Kulbardi</i> ) carolling	Jarrah & Marri in flower medicine – red oozing gum = antiseptic, dried gum = cure for diarrhoea, zamia seeds processed
Makuru	Winter	Blue ( <i>wooyan</i> ) First rains	June/July	Travelling inland to hunting areas -carried smouldering banksia to store fire	Kangaroo ( <i>Yonga</i> ), emu ( <i>weitch</i> ) & bandicoot ( <i>quenda</i> ) hunted. Swans ( <i>Maarli</i> ) moulting so easier to catch	Wandoo & Sheoak (Kondil) in flower. Tubers of native potato harvested
Djilba	Winter/Spring	Pink ( <i>mirda-djardak</i> ) Second rains & shorter days wildflowers begin	Aug/Sept	Hunting inland in swamps and wetlands	Quenda, possum ( <i>koormal</i> ) made into fur belts, mullet, perch, oblong turtle ( <i>booyi</i> ) lays eggs	Blood root eaten raw or roasted acacia – soft green seeds eaten
Kambarang	Spring	Yellow ( <i>yoont</i> ) hotter/drier with wildflowers	Oct/Nov	Begin return to the coast Bark from trees used to make shields. Fish traps set downstream	Freshwater crayfish ( <i>gilgie</i> ), fish, parrots, frogs ( <i>kooyar</i> )	Christmas tree (Mudja) Marri gum, wild pear (snotty gobbler) Peppermint tree (Wonil)



City of **Perth**

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