



Nyungar Seasons - Teacher Notes

Below are some comparisons between European and traditional Nyungar use of seasons in Western Australia.

Month	European		Aboriginal (Nyungar)	
	Season	Use	Season	Use
January	Summer	Work, shop & school holidays, camp, swim and back to school. Conserve water and play cricket	Birak	Catch Bronze wing pigeons. Burning for regrowth to attract animals
February			Bunuru	Trap fish & collect seafood, tortoises and wattle seed.
March	Autumn	Work, shop & go to school. Rake up leaves. Conserve water. Watersports. Harvest grains and fruit.	Djeran	Inland & estuary fishing. Collect bulbs & seeds
April				
May				
June	Winter	Work, shop & go to school. Play football & netball. Collect rainwater Plant crop seed if there are good rains. Lambs born. Green leafy vegetables grow easily.	Makuru	Move inland for hunting. Sleep under skins.
July				
August			Djilba	Dig roots and tubers for food. Hunt emu, quenda and kangaroo. quandongs



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Month	European		Aboriginal	(Nyungar)
	Season	Use	Season	Use
September	Spring	Work, shop & go to school. Royal Show & Grand Final. Wine Harvest. Collect rainwater.	Djilba (cont'd)	
October			Kambarang	Move to coast and collect seafood, yams and waterfowl eggs
November				
December	Summer	Summer holidays	Birak	Collect banksia flowers for sugar.

Local Aboriginal people are the best source of information about local seasons and names. Each area has different names and descriptions of their local seasons. These spoken calendars gave information on where hunter-gatherer people could find food and what the conditions would be like. They were very important for survival.

