



# An Aboriginal myth

The Aboriginal people of Australia have stories about thunder and lightning. Read the two **myths** below about thunderstorms and answer the questions that follow.



On Melville Island it is a woman, Bumerali, who strikes the ground with her stone axes mounted on long flexible handles. These are the lightning flashes which destroy the trees and sometimes the Aborigines.

The Arnhem Land Aborigines believe that the thunder-man, Jambuwul, travels from place to place on the large cumulus clouds of the wet season, shedding the life-giving rain on the earth beneath. These thunder-clouds are also the home of tiny spirit children, the yurtus, who travel on the raindrops to descend to earth and find a human mother.

From *Dreamtime Heritage* by A. and M. J. Roberts



How does Bumerali make lightning?

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Who is Jambuwul?

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What are the yurtus?

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How does Bumerali make lightning?

Bumerali makes lightning by striking the ground with her stone axes.

Who is Jambuwul?

Jambuwul is the thunder-man, who travels from place to place on the large cumulus clouds of the wet season, shedding rain.

What are the yurtus?

The yurtus are tiny spirit children who travel on raindrops to descend to earth and find a human mother.

On this page, your child reads and examines two Aboriginal myths about thunderstorms. Either ask your child to read the passage aloud or read it together. Ensure that your child writes answers in complete sentences.