

# 12. The frog who wouldn't share

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather together for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. As human beings, we have storytelling in our DNA, and so for this final term of the school year, we offer some stories from across the world that help us to think about **'ourselves, others, beauty and/or beyond'**, and wonder together at the power of a story to help connect us and change us. We intentionally use **language from our Diocesan spirituality offer** throughout these resources and hope that this will help to build schools' understanding of the role of collective worship as part of spiritual flourishing. This week, we are in Australia, visiting an aboriginal story about Tiddalik the giant bull-frog. It's a cautionary tale about water use, which may be very relevant for the point in the term that this happens. There are images to accompany the story, showing some of the unique Australian animals that are a part of Tiddalik's story. **Our huge thanks to artist Sam Lyon, for allowing us to use the wonderful Tiddalik art, inspired by aboriginal dot paintings. You can view the original piece here:**

<https://samlyonart.wordpress.com/2015/01/24/aboriginal-green-frog/> but there are lots of others!



### How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

The class reflection materials for this term follow the same pattern as previous terms – think, talk and do – but also (where possible) relate to questions about **ourselves, others, beauty and beyond**. This week, we reflect on our environmental responsibilities as stewards of the earth's resources.

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- **You will need:** to find someone (who may be you!) who is prepared to take part in the opening challenge: Make me laugh! – inspired a little by the context of the story, but also a recent reality TV show about being the last one to laugh.... Choose your most serious adult – or a child who is willing to take part – and everyone else is allowed to try to make them laugh. Set boundaries for your context e.g. they may not touch that person, jokes have to be suitable for everyone etc.
- **In your reflective areas this week, you will need:** some blue glass beads and a small bowl.
- You may wish to use some weblinks to explore tips for water-saving here: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving> and supporting global charity WaterAid: <https://www.wateraid.org/uk> Around this resource this week, you will probably want to have conversations with your school community about the wise choices that we would want to model in our use of water i.e. having enough to drink but choosing to re-cycle water you've not drunk in your water bottle onto your plants before you refill it with fresh water etc.
- In case you're interested, the BBC hosts some English resources based on the story of Tiddalik: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zjqkgwx>

### Gathering:

#### Slide 1: Rippling water stilling exercise

*Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.*

As you sit quietly, watch the surface of the water rippling..... [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....as you watch....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today..... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **share a challenge together, share a story, and then share our thinking.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

- **Slide 2:** Use our new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. These greetings may change slightly each week to reflect the **spiritual elements** that we will be exploring in each week's materials.

**Leader:** As we gather to share our story today....

**All:** **May we grow in our understanding of ourselves, others and our wonderful world.**

*Here are BSL actions for some of the words:*

**Leader's words:**

**Gather:** <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video); **Story:** <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/story> (1st video)



**Response words:**

Grow: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/grow> (2nd video); Ourselves: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/yourself> (2nd video); Others: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/others> (4th video); World: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/world> (1st video)

**Engaging:**

- **Slide 3:** We're going to start today with a challenge: **Make me laugh!** [choose your candidate, if it's not you, and set up the rules and the scope of your challenge!] Laughing is important in the story that we will hear shortly, but first....
- **Slide 4:** You may remember that this term, we are exploring stories that help us to grow, and today's story is another ancient traditional tale. It's not from France, or Algeria, or New Zealand this time, but from Australia.....
- **Slide 4: Australia**  
Australia is a huge country – in fact, it's almost a whole continent, all by itself! Uluru (the red rock you can see at the top) is just one of the things that make Australia famous, and in fact, Uluru is a really important sacred, spiritual space for the aboriginal peoples who live in Australia. **Aboriginal culture is full of stories about the land, and about the animals that live on it, and how important the connections between human beings and the land are.** So, our story today is one of these....
- **Slide 6:** ....about an enormous frog called Tiddalik – and I wonder whether it too might have a message for us all..... [use script on p.4-5]
- **Slide 16:** We've been exploring stories that have hidden messages for us to find, like treasure, so I wonder what you think the message of **this story is?** [ask children to share ideas]
- **Slide 17:** Water is something that we all use, every day. We probably can't imagine what our lives would be like if we ran out, because we are fortunate enough to have lots of it, most of the time: in fact, some people would say that we see rather a lot of water here in the UK!
- **Slide 18:** In our story, Tiddalik's actions meant that all the other animals had no water to drink. It's a reminder to us that we all share the world's resources – and that our actions have an impact too.
- **Slide 19:** Scientists have been reminding us for years that we need to take better care of our world – and learn to be more careful about wasting our world's resources. Our planet belongs to us all, and we've learned that what people do in one place has an impact on the climate in another. In some countries, they can't take water for granted, and as our planet gets hotter, there is less rainfall, which in the end may mean less water for us all.
- **Slide 20:** Before we move on, we're going to spend a few moments talking about a really important question.... **Is there a difference between using water and wasting water?** [NB spend some time here helping children to understand there is a difference, and that whilst we should be careful with water, it's essential that children drink enough!]
- **Slide 21:** This is a very special document called the Commonwealth Charter, signed by our former Queen, Elizabeth II in 2013. It contains the promises that 24 countries across the world (called 'the Commonwealth') made to each other. One of them is about caring for the environment – our world – looking after it, because it belongs to everyone. We all know that we all share the same world – but what we may forget sometimes is that we also all share the world's resources, things like water. It sounds a bit topsy-turvy, but if we waste water, it's almost as bad as if we were like Tiddalik the frog, keeping all the water to ourselves, because there is less for everyone else.
- **Slide 22:** In the Bible, the special book for Christians, we read these words: **'Be generous and willing to share.'** Think for a few moments about what you think these words mean.

**Slide 23: Responding (words for worship), with wondering questions....**

In our story, Tiddalik the giant bull-frog didn't share – and there were huge consequences for all the other animals. **The promises in the Commonwealth Charter and the words from the Bible 'Be generous and willing to share' have reminded us that our actions matter.** Let's pause and think together....

**...I wonder what you think these words mean for us, here in our school?...**

**...I wonder how we might be careful with the water we use, because we know it's so precious in other parts of the world?...and how our actions might show that we are willing to share this precious resource**

with others?...

...I wonder if there might be other ways in which we could be generous and willing to share?...

I'm going to leave some space here for us to think.... [or you might want to give pupils opportunities to talk together in pairs about things they could do]

And now I'll use a short prayer, which you might like to make your own in some way – or continue to be still with your own thoughts.....

**Slide 24: Prayer**

Dear God

We are thankful that we have clean, fresh water to drink, but we realise that we need to use it and share it responsibly. Please help us to remember.

**Slide 25: Amen**

Sending: Slide 26

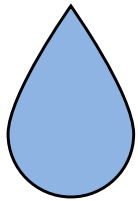
Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May we use water wisely!



To sing / listen to:

[One world](#) (NBD)



**Slide 27: Reflective areas**

You will need some glass beads (clear/blue if possible) and a small bowl

**Think:** Think about the story of Tiddalik and how his actions meant that there was nothing for anyone else.

**Talk:** Talk about how we can be more careful and responsible in the way that we use water.

**Do:** Each time you do something to save water, place a glass bead into the bowl.



## Slide 6: The frog who wouldn't share

Tiddalik was a great big, enormous, bull frog.

One hot, sunny day, Tiddalik decided that he needed a drink of water to cool him down, so he went down to the billabong for a drink. To his annoyance, lots of other animals were already there:

**Slide 7:** ...**Kangaroo**, and **Wombat**, and **Koala**, and **Snake**, and **Kookaburra**, all of them drinking from the lake.

**Slide 8:** Tiddalik saw them drinking and decided that he didn't want to share the water with anyone. So, he swallowed up all the water in the land – not just the water in the billabong, but the water in all the streams and lakes as well – in one great, big bull-frog gulp! No more billabong, and no more water for the animals.

**Slide 9:** Time went by and the sun got hotter and hotter. The other animals in the forest got more and more thirsty, until they could bear it no more. So they went to Tiddalik and pleaded with him to let just a little bit of water out for them all to share.

**Slide 10:** But Tiddalik just stared, with his great, big bull-frog mouth clamped tightly shut. Eventually, the animals called a meeting and decided that something must be done to make Tiddalik give them back their water.

**Slide 11:** **Kangaroo** said, 'We must make him open up his mouth,'. 'Let's make him laugh,' suggested **Koala** and off they went to put their plan into action.

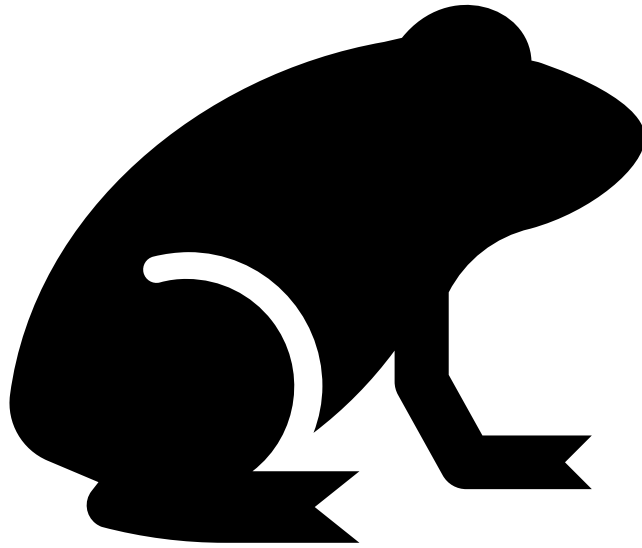
**Slide 12:** Tiddalik was still sitting by the side of the lake, so full of water that he could hardly move...his great, big bull-frog mouth still clamped tightly shut around the precious water. One by one the animals tried to make him laugh.

**Slide 13:** **Kookaburra** told his funniest story. They all pulled funny faces and told funny jokes. They turned somersaults and pretended to fall over each other like clowns, but nothing seemed to work. **Snake** even tied himself into a giant knot, but Tiddalik's great big bull-frog mouth stayed shut.

**Slide 14:** They were near to giving up when Wombat had a really good idea. He sneaked up behind Tiddalik and, ever so gently to begin with, he started to tickle him. Tiddalik began to tremble, but his great big bull-frog mouth still stayed tightly shut. So, Wombat tickled some more....and the corners of Tiddalik's great big bull-frog mouth began to twitch. Some more tickling, and Tiddalik could not keep his great big bull-frog mouth closed a second longer. He let out an enormous giggle....

**Slide 15:** ....and out flowed all the water, back where it belonged – enough water for everyone to share.





***Tiddalik the giant bull-frog swallowed all the water in the billabong and wouldn't share with anyone else.***



**Think about the story of Tiddalik and how his actions meant that there was nothing for anyone else.**



**Talk about how we can be more careful and responsible in the way that we use water.**



**Each time you do something to save water, place a glass bead into the bowl.**

