

# LANDSCAPES AND LANDFORMS



## Aboriginal Dreaming – origins of The Three Sisters

**Nicholas De Bressac, Stella Maris College**

### What is The Dreamtime and The Dreaming?

The Dreamtime is the period in which life was created according to Aboriginal culture. Dreaming is the word used to explain how life came to be; it is the stories and beliefs behind creation. In the Dreamtime, the natural world—animals, trees, plants, hills, rocks, waterholes, rivers—were created by spiritual beings/ancestors. The stories of their creation are the basis of Aboriginal culture.

#### **Three Sisters Dreaming Story – Version 1**

**Listen to the story being told here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zie0GqkRNbg&t=86s>

*The ancient aboriginal legend tells the tale of three sisters – ‘Meehni’, ‘Wimlah’ and ‘Gunnedoo’. These three enchanting girls lived in the heart of the Jamison Valley as part of the Katoomba tribe.*

*Yet the girls were young and their hearts were captured by three brothers from a neighbouring tribe. However, the law of the land forbid the girls from following their desires and marrying outside their own people.*

*The brothers decided to capture the girls and carry them away to be wed, a major battle ensued as the two tribes clashed and the blood ran thick. An elderly witchdoctor from the Katoomba tribe feared for the safety of the beautiful sisters and cast a spell to turn them to stone to keep them safe from harm. Yet during the raging battle the witchdoctor was killed and unable to reverse the spell.*

*The sisters stand mournfully high above the Jamison Valley, doused in glory, bewitching in their enchantment but never able to return to the human form.*

#### **Three Sisters Dreaming Story – Version 2**

**Watch the story being performed here:** [https://youtu.be/\\_gWpsGik3wY](https://youtu.be/_gWpsGik3wY)

*This tale begins with Tyawan, a witch doctor who had three daughters; Meenhi, Wimlah and Gunnedoo. Whenever Tyawan had to pass by a hole to get food, he would leave his three daughters behind a rocky wall on a cliff. He did this because down this deep, dark hole there lived a Bunyip who was the most feared creature on the land.*

*One day as Tyawan passed by the hole off to get food, a large centipede crawled next to the girls and scared Meenhi so much that she threw a rock at it. The rock then fell down into the valley and angered the Bunyip. He came up to face the girls, and Tyawan who saw this from a distance turned his daughters into stones to protect them from the Bunyip with his magic bone. After he had done this, the Bunyip began chasing him so he turned himself into a lyre bird. All was well and everyone safe, however in the scuffle Tyawan had dropped his magic bone somewhere, leaving him a bird and his three daughters into the rock formations we see today. It’s said that you can still hear the call of the lyre bird around the rocks even till now; Tyawan in search of the magic bone.*

# LANDSCAPES AND LANDFORMS: THE THREE SISTERS

## Three Sisters Dreaming Story – Version 1

State it in three points:	
Two words I didn't know:	Word 1 meaning:
	Word 2 meaning:

## Three Sisters Dreaming Story – Version 2

State it in three points:	
Two words I didn't know:	Word 1 meaning:
	Word 2 meaning:

## Formation of The Three Sisters – comparing spiritual and geographical explanations

Compare the spiritual and geographical explanations of how The Three Sisters were formed.

