

Tiddalik the Frog

The following story is based on a traditional Aboriginal Dreaming story about a frog called Tiddalik.

Once upon a time in the Dreaming, there lived a frog called Tiddalik. Tiddalik lived in the Wollombi Valley in the Creation era. He was a greedy frog. He wanted to be the biggest frog in all the land. One scorching day, Tiddalik became very parched. He wandered down to the billabong where there was plenty of water. Tiddalik was so thirsty that he began to drink and drink and drink until all the water in the billabong had disappeared.



When all the other animals gathered at the billabong for a drink, they discovered that there wasn't any water left. They were so hot and thirsty too. They knew that it was the greedy frog, Tiddalik, who drank all the water. They became vexed with him. The animals knew that they had to get the water back somehow. The wise owl suggested that if he laughed, all the water would come out. The animals knew that if they wanted to get all the water back into the billabong, they would have to make the frog laugh



First, the echidna tried to make him laugh. The echidna rolled down the hill into the dried up billabong.

Tiddalik didn't laugh.

Next, the kookaburra who was perched high up in the gum tree pretended to fall out. Tiddalik still didn't laugh.

After that, the wombat started dancing some very funny moves. But still Tiddalik didn't laugh.

The animals were so confused that they didn't know what to do. They were still very thirsty. Finally, the eel decided to make an attempt. He danced and danced and danced until he tied himself in a big knot.

Suddenly Tiddalik's mouth started to move. He could not prevent himself from laughing at the eel. He laughed so much that all the water came out and ran back into the dried up billabong.

From that day, Tiddalik was never greedy again and he only drank what he needed.



