## Riverred gums: The Yuki Tree

For thousands of years, river red gums have been used by the Ngarrindjeri people for:

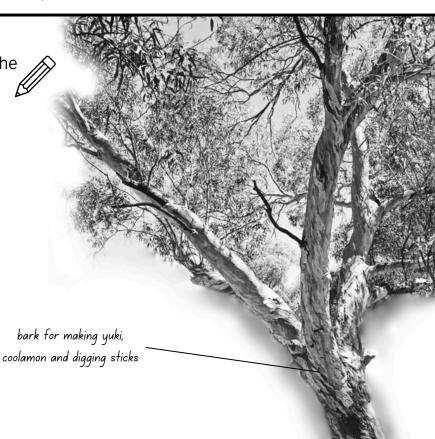
- creating yuki (bark canoes), coolamon (shields), and digging sticks
- medicine made from boiled bark for burns and stomach pain
- building shelters

River red gums have some clever tricks for adapting to the conditions, whether they're in drought or flood:

- 1. Their deep sinker roots can find and absorb water quickly and easily.
- 2. To stop transpiration (water escaping through the tree's leaves), they can drop leaves or close tiny holes in their leaves called stomates.
- 3. If there's a flood and the tree becomes surrounded by water, it grows special roots near the water's surface to help it breathe.

 $Source: \underline{https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Water/Water-for-the-\underline{environment/river-red-gum-factsheet-230159.pdf}$ 

Using the information above, label parts of the river red gum with its uses and adaptations.



## Want to learn more?

- See if you can find a river red gum near you. Sketch the tree, its leaves and blossoms.
- Use a crayon to make a leaf rubbing.
- Watch <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> <u>watch?v=A8UZb\_wqWYM</u>



