

# River red 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: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Water/Water-for-the-environment/river-red-gum-factsheet-230159.pdf>

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



*bark for making yuki,  
coolamon and digging sticks*

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 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8UZb\\_wqWYM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8UZb_wqWYM)



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