

EXPLORING

CROWS

IN *CROW COUNTRY*

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For reflection and discussion

- Are there crows in your school's location?
- Are there other birds or animals that inhabit your area?
 - What are they?
 - Are there any local beliefs about those birds or animals?

**What facts do you
know about crows?**

Facts about crows

- Crows belong to the same bird family as ravens, rooks, jays, and magpies. This family (corvids) has the largest brain-to-body size ratio of any bird species.
- Crows mob larger predators as a way of protecting one another.
- A group of crows is called a ‘murder’ (collective noun).
- Crows play an important role in human culture and in stories.

Birds and First Nations storytelling

- Native Australian birds have social, ceremonial, and ecological significance within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- They feature in stories that transmit knowledge and culture and teach lessons about how to live.
- They are also respected as totems and messengers.
- Read more from the [Australian Museum](#).

**What other beliefs are
there about birds?**

Symbolism of crows

- In some traditions crows can represent good or bad luck, and are also seen as bringers of rain.
- They are often associated with death, danger, illness, and haunting, but can also symbolise rebirth, loyalty, intelligence, and protection.
- What stories do you know that feature crows?

Reading time

Read Aesop's fable ['The Crow and the Pitcher'](#).

- What does the crow do?
- What does the story tell us about crows?

Read [Cunning Crow](#) by Gregg Dreise (OR another picture book about crows of your choosing).

- What does the crow do?
- What does the story tell us about crows?