

Maabu

Number/s

GR – Gamilaraay

YR – Yuwaalaraay

YY – Yuwaalayaay

GYG – Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay and Yuwaalayaay

The word **maabu** was developed by blending *maal* “one” and *bulaarr* “two”.

<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Numbers one to ten:</p> <p><i>maal</i> one GR <i>milan</i> one YR YY <i>bulaarr</i> two <i>gulibaa</i> three <i>buligaa</i> four <i>maa</i> five YR YY <i>mara</i> five GR* <i>yuli</i> six <i>guulay</i> seven <i>galay</i> eight <i>mirraal</i> nine <i>banay</i> ten</p> <p>Some sources use <i>maa</i> for GR “five” (see notes below).</p>
<p>Structures</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers in Australian languages usually go after the noun, in the opposite order from English. e.g. one butterfly: <i>balabalaa maal</i> (butterfly one) 2. Command forms in GYG are made by suffixes at the end of a verb. e.g. let’s count: <i>maabuba -la</i> (count command) 3. Question words go at the beginning of the sentence, as in English. “How many” is one word in GYG languages: e.g. How many tree lizards: <i>Minyangay waluubaal?</i> How many tree lizards?
<p>Prior/extra knowledge</p>	<p><i>balabalaa</i> butterfly <i>bandaarr</i> kangaroo <i>bigibila</i> echidna <i>bilay</i> red-winged parrot <i>birralii</i> children <i>burraalga</i> brolga <i>burrulaa</i> many <i>garrangay</i> duck <i>gidjirrigaa</i> budgerigar <i>giidjaa</i> ant <i>gugurrgaagaa</i> kookaburra</p>

	<p><i>gumi</i> bush tomato <i>maabu</i> number <i>maabuba-li</i> (will) count <i>minyangay</i> how many <i>ngiyani</i> we (more than two people) <i>nguuluwi</i> tadpole <i>waluubaal</i> tree lizard <i>warangana</i> bee <i>wii</i> fire <i>wiwurra</i> million</p>
Cultural knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has frequently been written that Aboriginal languages count “one, two, three, four, many” and do not have more numbers. However, it has also been pointed out many times that this is false (e.g. Norris 2016). • In 1904 Alfred Howitt (pages 697-703) described how messengers in some parts of Southeast Australia used fingers, message sticks, painted lines on their body, or parts of their body to count up to at least 30. • It is not clear what words Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay had traditionally, but some sources suggest that there were numbers one to ten. • In 2001 the Walgett language program investigated the old sources, and in consultation with elders developed a standardized number system parallel to the English decimal system (see below for discussion document). • Many Australian languages use their word for “hand” for “five”. In GR “hand” is <i>mara</i> and in YR YY it is <i>maa</i>. The newly developed system had GR <i>maal</i> and YR YY <i>milan</i>, based on old sources, with standardized <i>maa</i> for GYY “five”. However, <i>maal</i> and <i>maa</i> are very similar in sound, and many people have continued to use the traditional GR <i>mara</i> for “five”. Therefore, in our materials we now use: GR <i>maal</i> “one”, <i>mara</i> “five” YR YY <i>milan</i> “one”, <i>maa</i> “five”
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finger counting video and song “Birralii wii-dha” (Children at the fire) GR • Singalong “Birralii wii-dja” (Children at the fire) YR YY • Singalong with/without “Burrulaa balabalaa (with numerals)” video GR • Watch children count in videos GR • Tracing numerals GYY • Colouring in numerals and number words GYY • Number matching puzzle GYY • Trying out one of the traditional methods of counting used in south-east Australia (fingers/hands) (see Howitt) below • Counting aloud with “Maabuba-la!” flash cards in GR or YR • Read-along or question and answer from “Maabuba-la!” book in GR • Animal tallies GYY • Lingo Bingo 1-10 (either numerals or pictures)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number guessing game from <i>Yulunga</i>: https://www.sportaus.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/704896/segur_etug.pdf
Project resources	<p>Numbers 1-10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video/song: "Birralii wii-dha" GR https://youtu.be/SpoF9VQSBaU Video/song: "Burrulaa balabalaa (with numerals)" GR https://youtu.be/ehcph5iDMaY Tracing sheets 1-10 GYY Colouring in sheet 1-10 GYY Flash cards 1-10 in GR or YR/YY Reading book "Maabuba-la!" GR Number matching puzzle GYY <p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poster 1-100, 1,000, 1,000,000 GYY Animal tally activity GYY
Other resources	<p>Resource pack: "Gomeroid Numbers – Count to Ten" NSW AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.) Folder includes booklet, laminated A3 posters, glossy cards, card game instructions, teaching & learning activities, DVD with sound files. https://www.aecg.nsw.edu.au/product/gomeroid-numbers-count-to-ten/</p> <p>Hand-counting posters in either GR or YR(YY): Can be purchased from the Batchelor Institute –various choices of language, size, lamination, etc. http://batchelorpress.com/content/numbers-poster</p> <p>Interactive PowerPoint game GR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be purchased from Teachers Pay Teachers (TPT): https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Aboriginal-Language-Gamilaraay-Interactive-Numbers-Game-with-translation-7435241 <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gamilaraay Words of the Day: "One, two three" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tteYYo11TA&list=PL94x-cYTWKMTvNv_wcfqRGrxf4ExkS-df&index=4 Gamilaraay Words of the Day: "How many? Four, five" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTtYKwe-d-4&list=PL94x-cYTWKMTvNv_wcfqRGrxf4ExkS-df&index=5 "Count to ten in Gomeroid" (Moree East Public School) https://vimeo.com/114930231 "St Edwards students counting to ten in Gamilaraay" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xdZyINgv7A
Further reading	<p>Giacon, John. (2001). "Developing words for numbers in Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay." https://yuwaalaraay.com/2019/08/14/maabu-numbers/</p>



	<p>Howitt, Alfred William (1904). "The native tribes of south-east Australia", chapter 11. https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Native_Tribes_of_South-East_Australia/Chapter_11</p> <p>Also downloadable from our website here.</p> <p>Norris, Ray (2016) "Why old theories of indigenous counting just won't go away. The Conversation." https://theconversation.com/why-old-theories-on-indigenous-counting-just-wont-go-away-64173</p>
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