

# Example Text: Dreaming story

## Why the Crocodile Rolls

Long ago, in the Dreaming, the people lived together happily. The fathers showed their sons the way to become a man. The mothers prepared the evening meals of fish and mud crabs. The little girls played along the shore.

This season, there was plenty of food and everyone was content – except a girl named Min-na-wee.

Ever since she was a little girl, Min-na-wee was a trouble maker. She never said nice things about the other girls and she liked to start fights. Min-na-wee almost never smiled and her face was hard and scaly.

The elders of the tribe told her mother that if Min-na-wee didn't stop being so mean, that bad things would happen.

But as the years went on, nothing changed. One day the young women were getting ready to become brides. The elders showed the men which woman they would marry. At the end of the ceremony, Min-na-wee was left all alone. Nobody had chosen her. This made her very angry!

Now Min-na-wee made even more trouble than before and this made everyone in the tribe upset. So the elders got together and agreed that Min-na-wee must be punished.

Several men from the tribe went up to Min-na-wee and grabbed her, but she started rolling around and around in the dirt and escaped. Min-na-wee ran to the edge of the water and she called to the evil spirits to help her. They changed her into a nasty animal so she could attack her own tribe.

Min-na-wee became a crocodile. She lay in the water until one of the men who had tried to punish her came by. Then she grabbed him and rolled him over and over until she was happy that he had been punished for what he had done to her.

That is why today, when a crocodile catches its prey, it will roll around and around in the water.

NOTE: This Dreaming story is from the Kwini people of Western Australia near Broome. It is retold from a legend told to Frank Martin by his grandfather Jiller-rii