Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

Date: _____

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January 26: Whose Founding Date?

January 26th is not a national milestone; it is a regional anniversary of the colonial occupation of the Gadigal shores.

For too long, the Australian state has enforced a unilateral timeline that treats the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 as the "Big Bang" of our continent's history. This isn't just a historical inaccuracy; it is an act of epistemic violence.

By centering the 1788 Sydney timeline, the country erases the distinct histories, resistance movements, and continued sovereignty of Nations like the Yugambeh Nation.

While Sydney was grappling with its early penal colony, Yugambeh Country remained an autonomous Indigenous space. We were not "undiscovered" or "waiting" for 1788. Our laws, our kinship systems, and our land management remained absolute for decades after the First Fleet arrived.

The colonial frontier didn't even breach our borders until well into the mid-19th century. To apply a 1788 "founding" date to our region is a geographical and historical absurdity. The story of New South Wales is not the story of all Australia.

We are not a sub-plot in the story of New South Wales. We are the Yugambeh Nation; sovereign then, sovereign now, and sovereign always.

Timeline

1788
The First Fleet arrives on the Gadigal shores (Sydney)

1824
A penal colony is set up at Brisbane, just north of the Yugambeh Nation

1842
Moreton Bay is proclaimed open for “free settlement”

mid 1800s
The colonial frontier reaches Yugambeh Country

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JANUARY 26

Questions

Questions

1. On whose shores did the First Fleet arrive in 1788?

2. How many years passed between 1788 and the 1842 proclamation for Moreton Bay?

3. What does the Reading mean by a “unilateral timeline”?

4. Why does the Reading call a 1788 “founding” date for Yugambeh Country a “geographical and historical absurdity”?

5. “We are not a sub-plot in the story of New South Wales.” What does this mean?

6. Explain the phrase “sovereign then, sovereign now, and sovereign always.”