Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

Date: _____

AGES 11 TO 15 · LANGUAGES

What Does “Yugambeh” Mean?

In Yugambeh, **yugam** means *no*. The ending **-beh** is an **emphatic**: it makes the word stronger. So **Yugambeh** is like saying **“very much no!”** Older records also write the name as **yugambir**.

Neighbouring names

Several nations near us take their names from their word for “no”.

Name	How the name was formed
Yugambeh	**yugam** “no” + the emphatic **-beh**
Wakka Wakka	the word for “no”, doubled as an emphatic
Kabi Kabi	the word for “no”, doubled as an emphatic
Yagara	simply means “no”

Clan names have meanings too

Draw a line from each clan to its meaning.

Mununjali	Cobra-Worm People
Wanggeriburra	Burnt Earth People
Migunburri	Black Possum People
Kombumerri	Pretty-Faced Wallaby People
Bullongin	River People
Gugugan	Mountain Spike People

Think about it

English makes words stronger too, like “no way!” or “very, very”. Write two English emphatics, then explain why a people might name their language with a strong “no”.

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Yugambeh or Bundjalung? The Nation’s Reading “The One True Name Fallacy” explains that Yugambeh, Minyangbal and Nganduwal are names for a single cultural group from the Logan to the Tweed, while Bundjalung was traditionally used by groups around Tabulam and Grafton.

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Yugambeh Nation; Margaret Sharpe, *Yugambeh dictionary*; clan meanings: yugam.be/clans