Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

Date: _____

AGES 13 TO 16 · CIVICS

Why “Nation” Is a Political Term



In Australia, people often assume that if two groups share a similar language or similar stories, they must be the same "people." But as the comic shows, we don’t apply that same logic to the rest of the world.

Nobody walks up to an Austrian and says, "You speak German, so clearly you’re just part of the German Nation and have no separate borders or government." Everyone understands that they are two distinct, sovereign political entities that happen to share a linguistic history.

So why is it different for us?

When we talk about the Yugambeh Nation, we aren't just talking about a "cultural vibe" or a language group. We are talking about Political Authority.

- Shared Culture: We share Dreaming stories, songlines, and linguistic roots with our neighbors, like the Githabul Nation or the Wahlubal Nation. This makes us family in a broad sense.
- Distinct Politics: Under Traditional Law and Custom, sharing a language does not give one group the right to speak for another’s Country.
- Sovereignty: The Yugambeh Nation has its own political identity. We do not sit in Githabul or Wahlubal political matters, and they do not sit in ours.

To call yourself a "Nation" is to claim the right to govern your own affairs and care for your own specific Country. When people lump us all together because we "sound the same," they ignore our distinct political rights and our specific responsibilities to our Ancestors' land.

Shared stories are a blessing, but distinct voices are the Law.

NATION IS A POLITICAL TERM

Questions

Questions

1. What does the man say in both scenes of the comic?

2. Why does the caption call one of these “a daily occurrence” and the other not?

3. According to the Reading, what does the Yugambeh Nation share with the Githabul and Wahlubal Nations, and what is distinct?

4. Under Traditional Law and Custom, what right does sharing a language not give?

5. Explain: “Shared stories are a blessing, but distinct voices are the Law.”