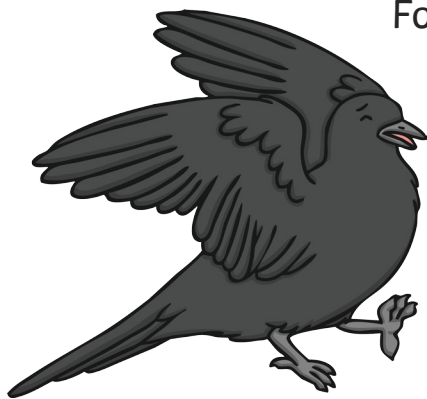


How the Birds Got Their Colours

The following story is based on a traditional Aboriginal Dreamtime story of how the birds got their colours.

Long, long ago in the Dreamtime, all the birds were black in colour. They did not have any bright or fancy colours on their feathers.

One day, a little bird was flying around, looking for food. The little bird flew down to catch a big, juicy and delicious looking grub. When the bird flew down to the ground, it hurt itself on a big, sharp stick. It cut deep into his foot and made him very, very sick.



For days, the little bird had a swollen foot and was in so much pain. He was dying! All of the little bird's friends came to see if they could help. They all wanted to save the little bird, except for one bird... the crow.

Suddenly, a parrot rushed towards the sick little bird and burst its swollen foot with its beak. Different colours rushed out and splashed all over the parrot. There were reds, greens, blues, yellows and other colours of the rainbow. All of the wonderful bright colours ran down her chest, wings and tail. The colours also splashed out onto the other birds. Some were red, some were blue, some were brown and some were yellow. Some birds were lucky and even got spots and stripes too.



All of the birds were happy and excited, except for crow, who was standing far away from them all. Crow didn't get any colours at all. The sick little bird soon became better. He thanked the parrot for helping him with his swollen foot and then flew away.



And that's how the birds got their colours.