

## HOW THE EMU GOT SHORT WINGS



This Photo by Unknown



A long time ago, the emu bird lived in the sky. His nest was on the clouds. Every evening, from his nest, he used to watch the brolgas dance by the lake, and he loved their dance. That emu was wondering to himself if he could come down and dance like them.

So, one day from the nest to where the brolgas were dancing. Then he went among them and asked the brolgas to teach him how their dance.

One of the Brolgas said to him 'spread your wings out like this'. And then another one of the brolgas said to the emu. Some on, dance like this, the way we brolgas dance. So, he tried but his wings were so big they got in the way. That brolga got angry and stopped the emu and shouted, 'spread your wings!'

There were a lot of brolgas there at the same time waiting for the emu to spread his wings, so they could dance. Then the emu spread his wings. They went right over everybody; they covered all the brolgas on the hill. When he did that, all the brolgas for a fright and fell on top of each other.

“No! No! No!”, all the brolgas shouted to the emu, “your wings are too big!” Too big! “We’ll have to cut them off and make them small like our size”

The brolgas got hold of his wings-both sides, they held the emus wings tight and one the brolgas got the sharpest stone axe and cut the emu’s wings to make them shorter.

But he cut them too short and too low. When the brolgas told the emu to spread his wings, the emu tried but he couldn’t see his wings anymore. He was said that he had lost his wings and he said to the brolgas, “you tricked me!”

This was because the brolgas were jealous of his big wings. Then he took off into the plains away from the brolgas and he is never seen near seen near brolgas again and they are now enemies.

### **Vocabulary- match the words with the meaning**

Nest	A part of a bird’s body that helps it to fly.
Wings	A tool used for cutting.
Wonder	A flat area of land with no trees.
Spread	Where a bird lives and keeps its eggs
Fright	Think deeply
Axe	Go out wide
Trick	scared
Plains	To lie, deceive

### **Answer the following questions**

1. Emus and brolgas are types of
  - a. Fish
  - b. Marsupials
  - c. Birds
2. What did the emu like to do from his nest?
3. What did the emu want the brolgas to do?
4. What advice did the first brolga give him?
5. What happened when the emu spread his wings?
6. What did the brolgas do to try and solve the problem?
7. In the end how did he feel and why did he feel this way?

**Who.....**

- ..... loved to dance? the emu/brolgas
- ..... lived in a nest? the emu/brolgas
- ..... Had big wings? the emu/brolgas
- ..... was jealous? the emu/brolgas
- ..... got tricked? the emu/ brolgas

