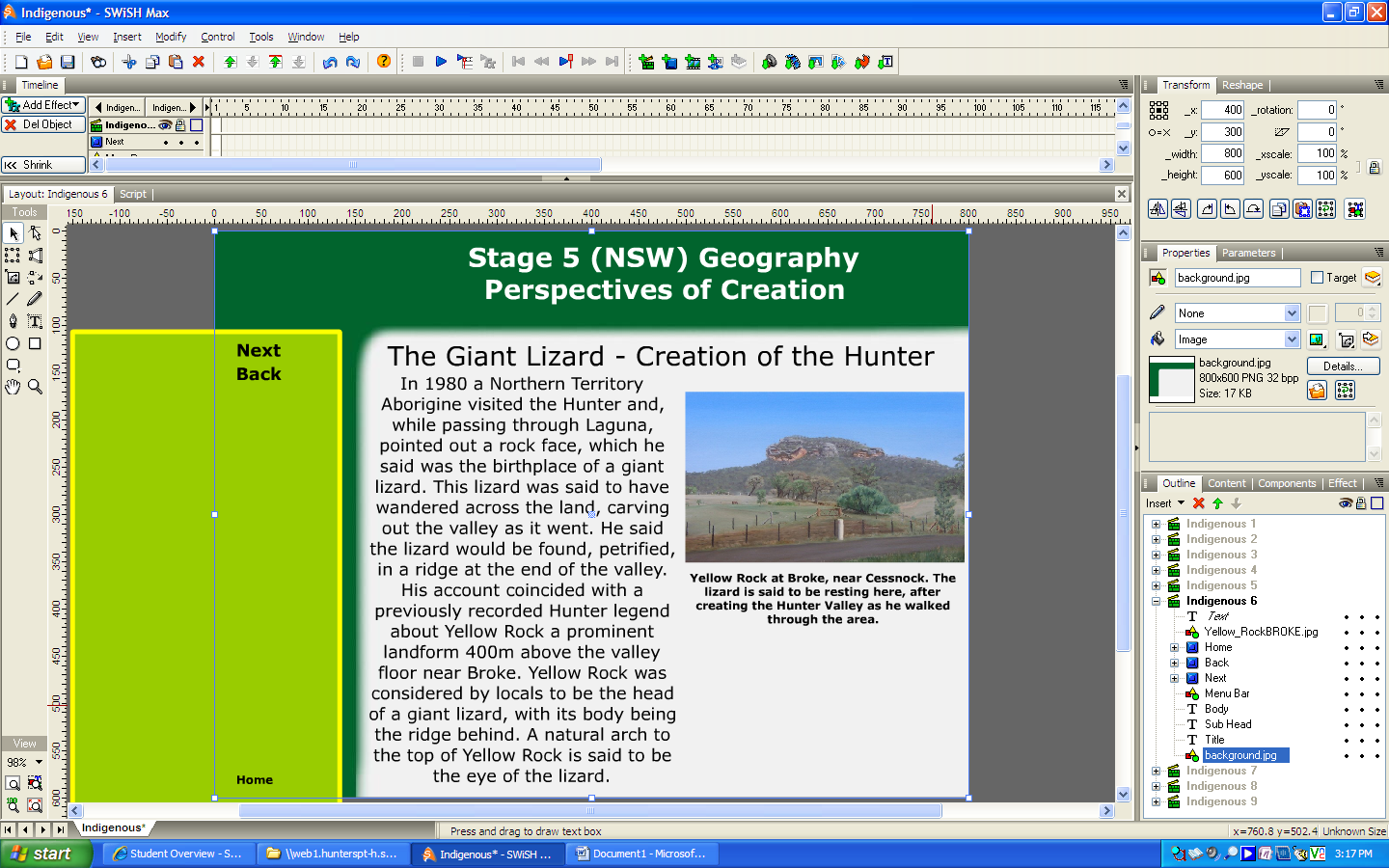
**HUNTER DREAMTIME STORIES**

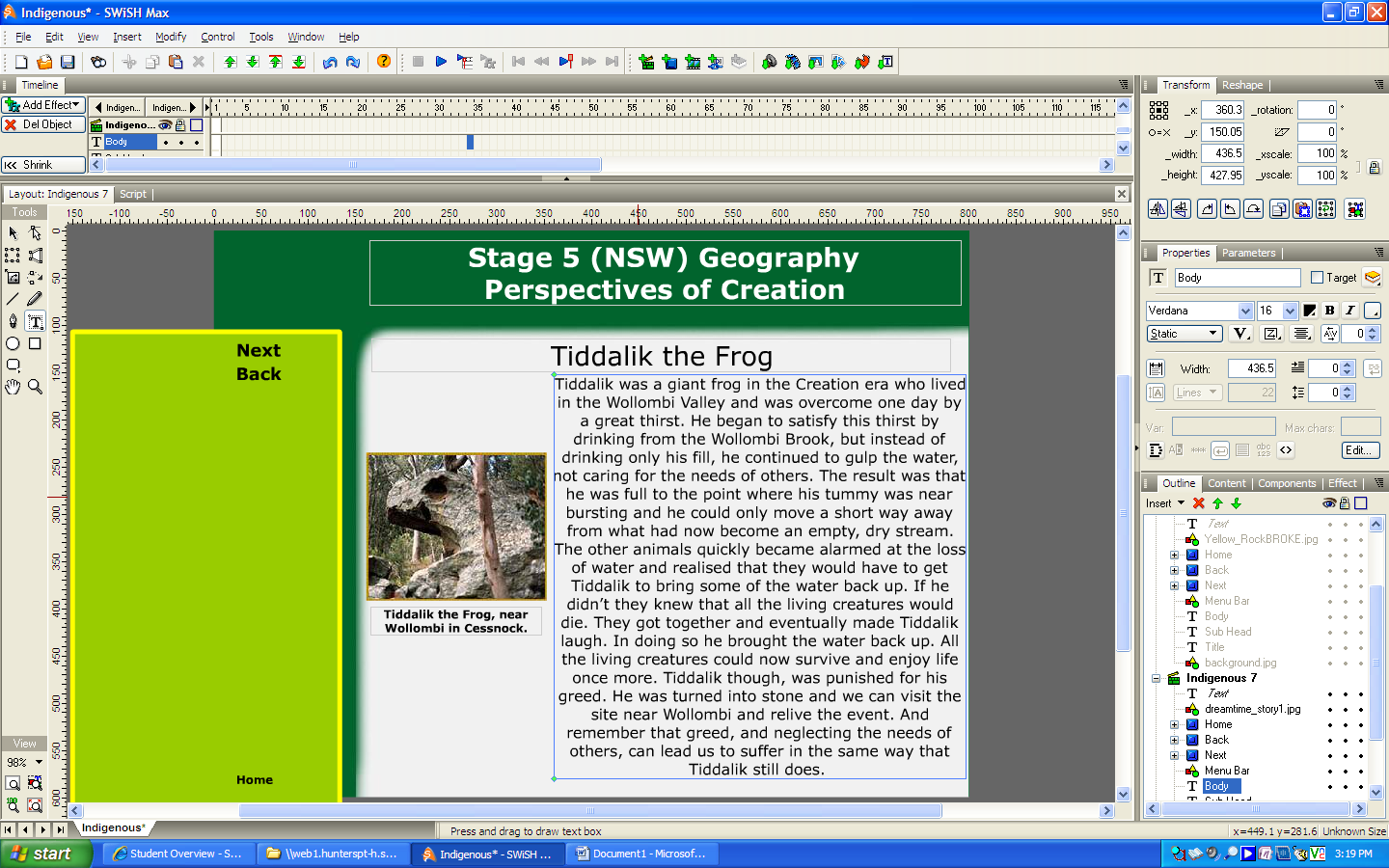
Whilst non-Aboriginal knowledge, restricting itself to its own scientific methodologies such as archaeological and anthropological studies, limits non-European occupation of the Hunter Region to some 30,000 years, Koori knowledge upholds that the occupation of the Hunter Region extends back into the early reaches of the Dreaming.

**The Giant Lizard**

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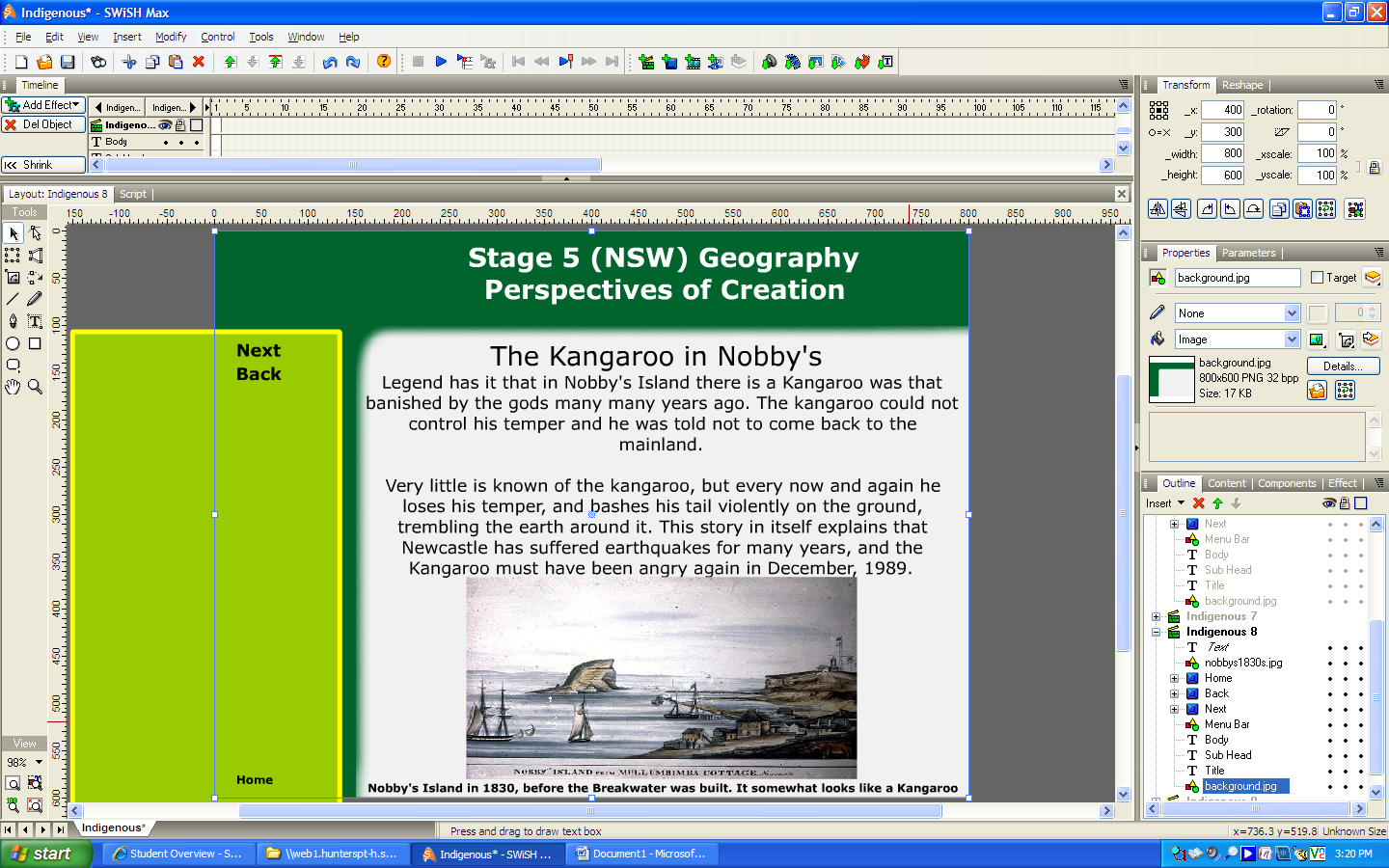
In 1980 a Northern Territory Aborigine visited the Hunter and, while passing through Laguna, pointed out a rock face, which he said was the birthplace of a giant lizard. This lizard was said to have wandered across the land, carving out the valley as it went. He said the lizard would be found, petrified, in a ridge at the end of the valley. His account coincided with a previously recorded Hunter legend about Yellow Rock a prominent landform 400m above the valley floor near Broke. Yellow Rock was considered by locals to be the head of a giant lizard, with its body being the ridge behind. A natural arch to the top of Yellow Rock is said to be the eye of the lizard.

**Tiddalik the Frog**



Tiddalik was a giant frog in the Creation era who lived in the Wollombi Valley and was overcome one day by a great thirst. He began to satisfy this thirst by drinking from the Wollombi Brook, but instead of drinking only his fill, he continued to gulp the water, not caring for the needs of others. The result was that he was full to the point where his tummy was near bursting and he could only move a short way away from what had now become an empty, dry stream. The other animals quickly became alarmed at the loss of water and realised that they would have to get Tiddalik to bring some of the water back up. If he didn’t they knew that all the living creatures would die. They got together and eventually made Tiddalik laugh. In doing so he brought the water back up. All the living creatures could now survive and enjoy life once more. Tiddalik though, was punished for his greed. He was turned into stone and we can visit the site near Wollombi and relive the event. And remember that greed, and neglecting the needs of others, can lead us to suffer in the same way that Tiddalik still does.

**The Giant Kangaroo of Nobbys**

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Legend has it that in Nobby's Island there is a Kangaroo was that banished by the gods many many years ago. The kangaroo could not control his temper and he was told not to come back to the mainland.Very little is known of the kangaroo, but every now and again he loses his temper, and bashes his tail violently on the ground, trembling the earth around it. This story in itself explains that Newcastle has suffered earthquakes for many years, and the Kangaroo must have been angry again in December, 1989.