



CLIL READERS

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS

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New Lands, New Cultures

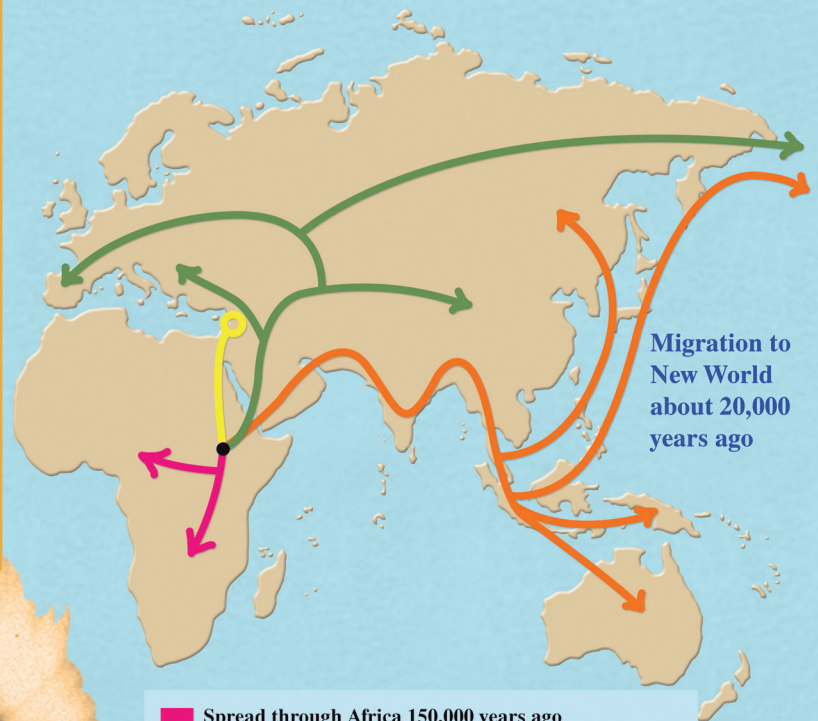
Homo sapiens – modern humans – appeared in Africa 200,000 years ago. From that cradle of humanity, they migrated around the world. Traveling through what is now Egypt's Nile Valley, they arrived in Asia about 100,000 years ago. They spread out along the coast of Southeast Asia and remained there for many years. About 50,000 years ago, they took the next step. They left their Southeast Asian home and crossed a short waterway to a new land – a place we now call Australia.

These people were the first Aboriginal Australians, and there are still groups of these people living in Australia to this day. In fact, the Aboriginal Australians form one of the world's oldest living cultures. The ancestors of modern Europeans did not arrive in Europe until 40,000 years ago. North America had no *Homo sapiens* until 15,000 years ago.

Sometimes people use the word 'aborigine' to refer to indigenous people of any geographic area. In Australia, people call them 'Australian Aborigines' 'Aboriginal Australians,' 'Aboriginal people,' or 'indigenous Australians'. The Aboriginal people live in all parts of the country and on nearby islands.



MIGRATION OF HOMO SAPIENS



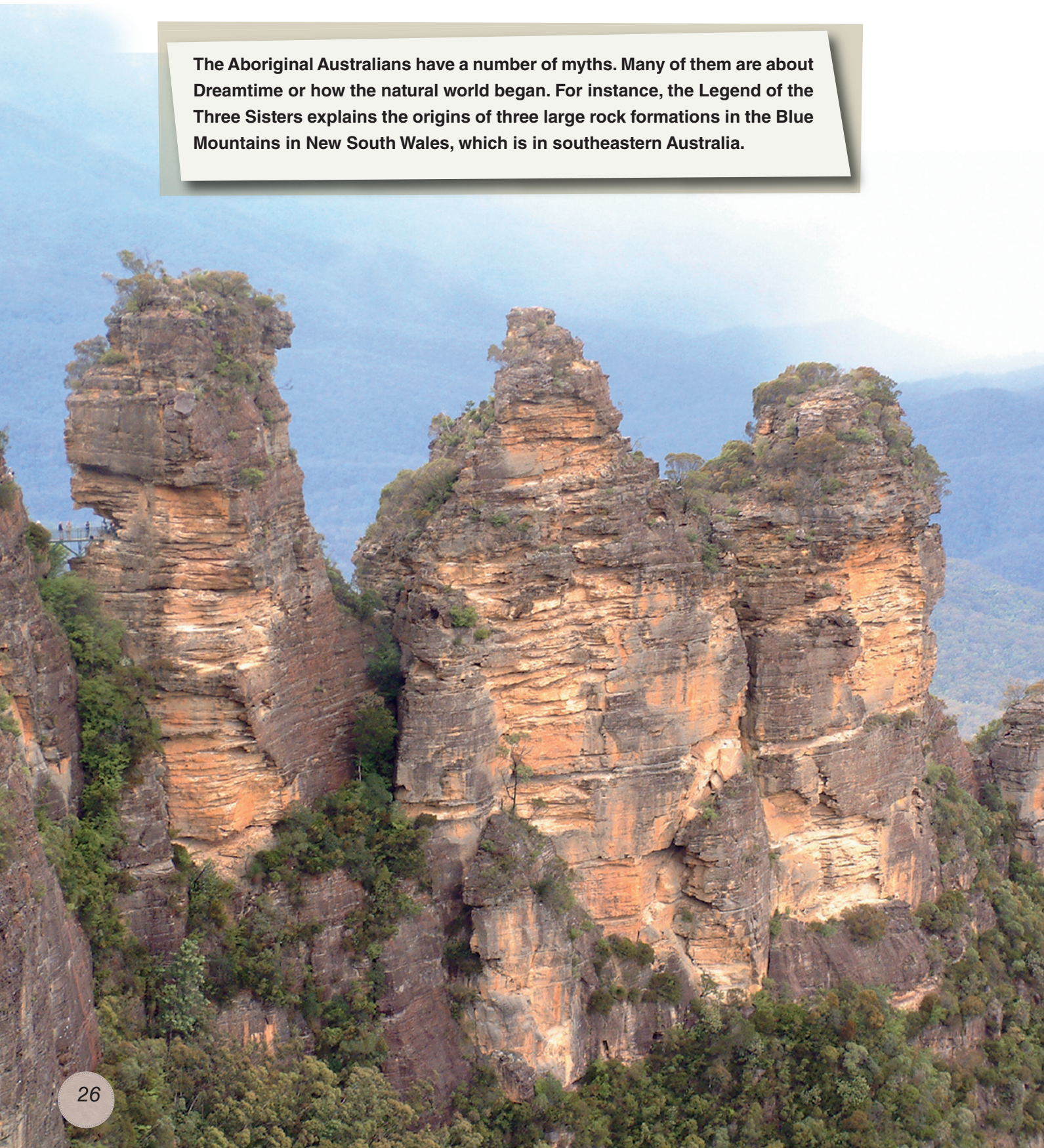
- Spread through Africa 150,000 years ago
- Occupied Levant 180,000 to 80,000 years ago
- Arrived in Australia and East Asia by 50,000 years ago
- Arrived in Europe and Siberia by 40,000 years ago

Some people used the word 'Aboriginals' to refer to Aboriginal Australians. Using *just* that word is now considered offensive.



Myths & Legends

The Aboriginal Australians have a number of myths. Many of them are about Dreamtime or how the natural world began. For instance, the Legend of the Three Sisters explains the origins of three large rock formations in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, which is in southeastern Australia.



The Legend of the Three Sisters

Once there were three beautiful sisters, Meehni, Wimlah and Gunnedoo from the Gundungurra tribe. An evil, man-eating monster lived near their village at the bottom of a deep hole. One day, the sisters sat near the hole and started talking. As they talked, a centipede appeared.

“Disgusting!” said one girl. She picked up a rock and threw it at the creature.

The stone missed the centipede and bounced directly into the hole. There was a loud roar. The Earth suddenly began to shake. The monster emerged from its hole and found the three terrified sisters. The monster’s red eyes began to glow. It showed its ugly teeth and began to salivate. Here were three lovely women – surely a delicious meal.

The three girls screamed. Fortunately, their father was nearby and he heard them. He rushed to the cliff and found the monster hovering over his terrified daughters. The man could only do one thing. He had a magic bone. It transformed anything or anyone. He pulled the bone out and pointed it at his daughters. In an instant, they changed. They were no longer girls; rather, they were three large rocks standing side by side.

The monster was furious! It ran after the man, hoping it would at least get something to eat. They sprinted into a forest and all the way up to the highest mountain peak. “The monster will come after me no matter what I do. I can escape if I use the magic bone,” the man thought.

He pointed the bone at himself and instantly turned into a lyre bird. He flew away, but realized he had dropped the magic bone. When the monster returned to its hole, the lyre bird landed on the ground and began searching for the bone. He never found it and can still be seen to this day – searching the forest floor for the magic bone that can turn the rocks back into his daughters again.



The Lyre bird is known for its ability to copy sounds. It can sound like a barking dog, a crying baby, a fire alarm, and much more.



Life in Aboriginal Society

Word Bank

(pp. 12-13)

highly structured (phr) = very organized

grow (v) = to increase

spread out (phr v) = to move further apart

split up (phr v) = to divide into smaller groups

distinct (adj) = separate

territory (n) = an area of land occupied and defended by a group of people

reach (v) = to arrive (in)

tribe (n) = a group of people of the same race with a common language, customs, etc. who live in a community together

dialect (n) = a version of a language which differs slightly from other versions in pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary

boundary (n) = border

dwelling (n) = a place where sb lives

construct (v) = to build

depending on (phr) = based on

climatic conditions (phr) = the weather conditions in an area

structure (n) = the way sth is organized

family ties (phr) = the relationship between the members of a family

in-laws (pl n) = the parents of sb's spouse

directly (adv) = without interference; straight

prevent (v) = to keep sth from happening

disagreement (n) = argument

entire (adj) = whole

gather (v) = to come together in a group

chief (n) = leader

peaceful (adj) = not at war

aggressive (adj) = violent

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Which of the following sentences do you think are *T* (true) or *F* (false)?

- 1 The Aboriginal people were nomadic.
- 2 Aboriginal culture was highly unorganized.
- 3 As the population of Aboriginal people grew, they split into different groups.
- 4 When the first Europeans arrived, there were more than 3,000 groups.
- 5 There were once 250 Aboriginal languages.

b)  Listen, read, and check.

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the correct answer A, B, or C.

- 1 What did an Aboriginal child call his aunts and uncles?
A sister and brother
B grandmother and grandfather
C mother and father
- 2 What are some different groups of Aboriginal people called?
A multiple families and tribes
B hordes and moieties
C tribes and societies
- 3 Which family members had to keep their distance from each other?
A husbands and wives
B parents and children
C mothers-in-law and spouses
- 4 What was one of the purposes of these customs?
A to avoid arguments among family members
B to divide family groups
C to show respect to their chiefs

3 Choose the correct word.

- 1 Hordes were groups of **multiple/small** families.
- 2 Moieties were the two groups of a **family/tribe**.
- 3 People were not allowed to talk to their **mothers/sisters**-in-law.
- 4 People from one **horde/moiety** married people from the other.
- 5 Often the entire tribe **gathered/divided** for special ceremonies.

4 Fill in the blanks with the following:
structure, prevented, purpose.

- 1 Aboriginal societies all had a similar
- 2 The of these rules was to show respect.
- 3 These rules also family problems.

5 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 What is a "dialect"?
A a regional variation of a language
B a language
- 2 What is a "boundary"?
A a dwelling
B a border
- 3 What are "in-laws"?
A the parents of someone's husband or wife
B husbands or wives

6 a) SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY:
Which of the following words/phrases relate to the groups in Aboriginal social structure? Check (✓).

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 ☐ horde | 6 ☐ grow |
| 2 ☐ moiety | 7 ☐ family structure |
| 3 ☐ reach | 8 ☐ gather |
| 4 ☐ family | 9 ☐ site |
| 5 ☐ distance | |

b) Use words from Ex. 6a to complete the following sentences.

- 1 The Aboriginal people had a complex
- 2 They lived in groups.
- 3 A was a group of multiple families that worked together to gather food.
- 4 A was a group within a tribe connected to a different animal or plant.

After-Reading activities

7 Read the sentence in bold. Then choose the answer which best expresses the essential information in the sentence.

These indigenous people often traveled around within the boundaries of their tribe's territory, but also spent periods of time living in small dwellings in villages.

- A** Aboriginal Australian tribes settled down after traveling and built home and cities.
- B** Aboriginal Australian tribes spent a lot of time traveling, but would often settle in one area for years.
- C** Aboriginal Australian tribes would travel within their own territories and, in certain periods, lived in temporary settlements.
- D** Aboriginal Australian tribes continuously traveled without settling for any length of time.



Review

Listening Activities

1



Listen to a dialogue about Aboriginal Australians. For 1-4 choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly talking about?
 - A how to use a boomerang as a weapon
 - B problems associated with boomerang hunting
 - C how to make a boomerang for hunting animals
 - D various materials for making boomerangs
- 2 Aboriginal Australians designed boomerangs to fly ...
 - A ... far overhead.
 - B ... straight at targets.
 - C ... low to the ground.
 - B ... around a target.
- 3 Why does the woman believe that a boomerang could kill a small animal?
 - A She was struck by a boomerang once.
 - B She hunts animals with similar weapons.
 - C She saw a boomerang kill an animal.
 - D She knows people who hunt with boomerangs.
- 4 Some Aboriginal hunters used boomerangs as ...
 - A ... handheld weapons.
 - B ... all-purpose tools.
 - C ... sports equipment.
 - D ... children's toys.

2

 **Listen to a lecture about Aboriginal Australians. For 1-4 choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.**

- 1 What is the main topic of the talk?
 - A the importance of totems
 - B rules about totems
 - C different types of totems
 - D totems within indigenous cultures
- 2 According to the speaker, which of the following is true about Australian Aborigines and Native Americans?
 - A They were the only ones to have totems.
 - B Their beliefs are probably unrelated.
 - C They cannot kill their totem animals.
 - D Their totems are not physical objects.
- 3 Aboriginal Australians and Native Americans may have inherited their beliefs from a common ...
 - A ... ancestor.
 - B ... Ancestral Being.
 - C ... totem animal.
 - D ... physical object.
- 4 Why does the speaker say "Either way, totemic beliefs are very important"?
 - A She considers totemic beliefs to have beneficial effects.
 - B She believes totemic beliefs provide insight about a culture.
 - C She feels that beliefs in totems make some cultures important.
 - D She thinks certain cultures should believe in totems.

Amazing facts

Did you know?

The Aboriginal people make up about 1.5% of the total
1) of Australia today.

Traditionally, Aboriginal Australians did not name their babies until a year after they were
2)

Aboriginal Australians were the first to use the Eucalyptus plant as 3) for coughs, fevers and asthma. Now, it is used all over the world to treat many medical problems.

Although there are still over 100 recognized Aboriginal
4) today, there are only 20-60 regularly in use in Australia.

Aboriginal Australians would sometimes eat moths, grubs and other insects, and considered them a 5)

Honey was a source of sugar in their diet. When they found "honeybags", or
6), they would cut down the tree to get the honey.

1 Complete the blanks. Use these words: *population, medicine, delicacy, languages, beehives, born.*

2 **ICT** In groups collect more facts on Aboriginal Australians. Prepare a Yes/No quiz.

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS

Be charmed by the amazing world of some of the Earth's oldest groups of people and find out all about their traditions and way of life.

Learn how they have managed to preserve their distinctive cultures and age-old customs through striking images, interesting stories and fascinating facts.

Components

- Reader
- Multi-ROM

DIGI MATERIAL

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