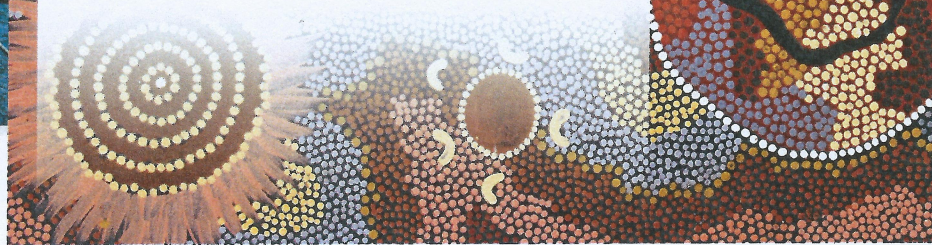


THE ABORIGINES

The Aborigines arrived from Asia in about 40,000 B.C. and were the first people to settle in Australia. They lived a simple nomadic style of life, adapting their activities to suit the land and the seasons. When Europeans arrived in the country, in the late 18th century, the Aboriginal people suffered badly. Many of them died from diseases they caught from the new settlers and others were forced to give up their nomadic lifestyle and move into settlements. They had to accept low paid work on cattle farms and poor living conditions. Since the 1960s, the Aboriginal people have been fighting for rights over their tribal lands and respect for their way of life. Today, more than 70% of Aborigines live in urban areas but their traditional lifestyle is still maintained in a few remote locations, particularly in the northern and central areas of Australia.

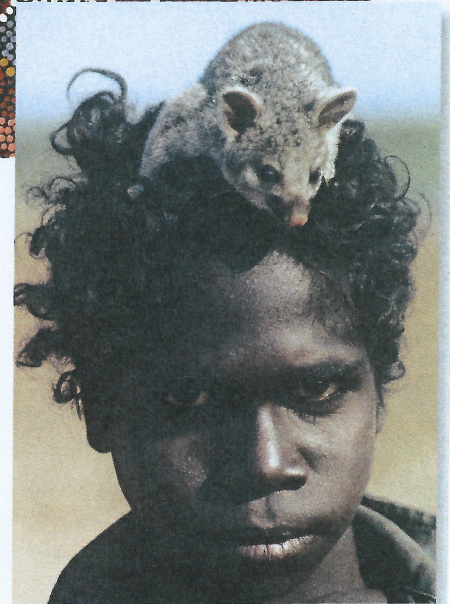


Dot painting is one of the ways that Aboriginal tribes narrate their history.

DREAMTIME

The Aborigines believe that Dreamtime is where their lives began, connecting them to the land, the ancestors and the spirits. According to their beliefs, during Dreamtime their ancestral spirits created the Sun, Moon and stars, the sky and the planets. They travelled across the land and gave it shape, creating rivers and mountains, plants and animals. When the creation of the world was complete, the spirits melted into the landscape in places that became sacred. The stories of Dreamtime are passed from generation to generation through art, poetry, music and dance.

Aborigines believe that the Earth, the animals and themselves are all parts of the same beginning, the Dreamtime. The land is their mother and its waterholes, rocks, trees and rivers were formed by their spirit ancestors.



Speaking

4 Take turns to ask and answer questions about the Aborigines. Use the prompts given.

- 1 Where / the Aborigines / come from?
- 2 What / type of lifestyle / they have?
- 3 What happen / the Aborigines / in the 18th century?
- 4 Where / most Aborigines / live today?
- 5 What / happened / during the Dreamtime?
- 6 How / Aborigines / pass on the stories of the Dreamtime?

Writing

5 Look at the painting on this page and write a paragraph about it. Use these questions:

- Do you think the painting illustrates aspects of the Dreamtime? Why?
- What colours are used?
- What details catch your attention?
- Do you like the painting or not? Why?