

What Is Aboriginal Dreaming?

Task: Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the words provided.

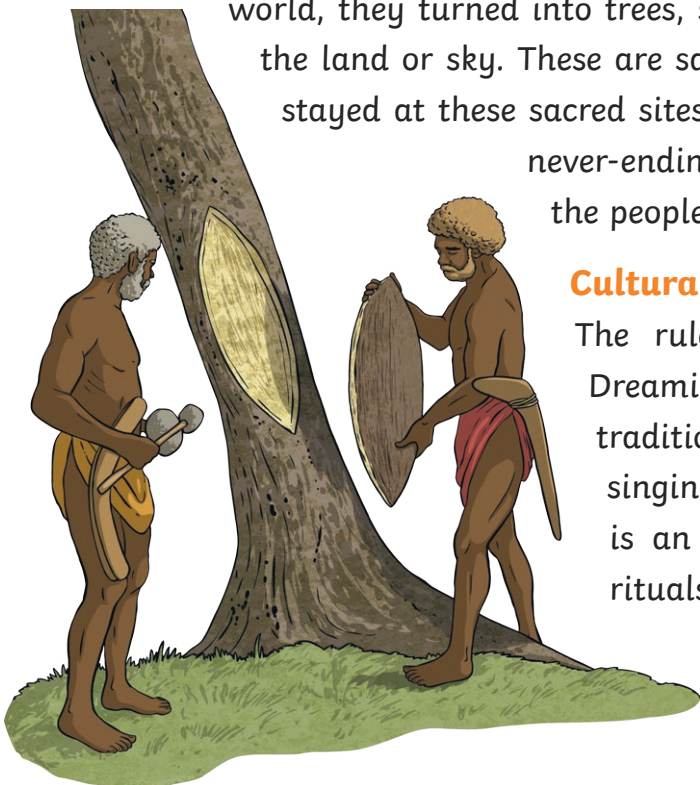
What Is the Dreaming?

Australian Aborigines have the longest surviving cultural history. Their history dates back 50,000 to 60,000 years. The Dreaming means 'to see and understand the law'. It is the way the Aborigines tell important knowledge, cultural values and belief systems to their children. The Dreaming also means the Creation period, during which Aboriginal ancestors created the land and animals. The telling of the Dreaming is done in several ways, such as song, dance, painting and storytelling. Telling the Dreaming stories allows the Aborigines to maintain links between the Dreaming from ancient times and today. This maintains a rich and cultural heritage.



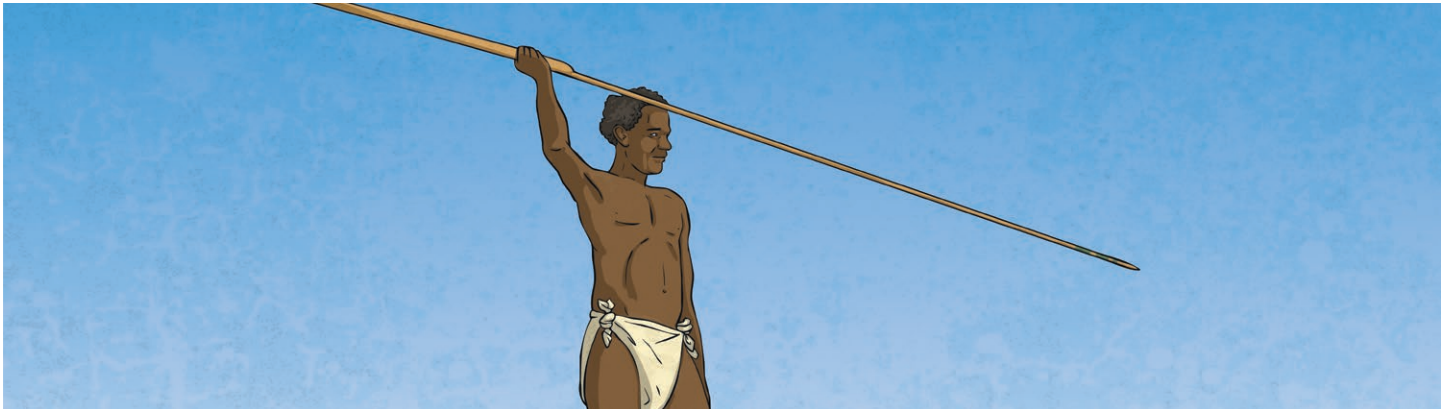
The Relationship between People, Land and Animals

In many stories of the Dreaming, the ancestors' spirits returned to earth in human form. They moved throughout the land and created all living things and landforms. The relationships between Aborigines and the land, the animals and other people were also created by the ancestral beings. After the ancestor spirits created the world, they turned into trees, stars, rocks, watering holes and other objects of the land or sky. These are sacred places of Aboriginal culture. The ancestors stayed at these sacred sites at the end of the Dreaming, which means it is never-ending and will always link the past and the present, the people and the land.



Cultural Responsibilities

The rules for social conduct are also told through Dreaming stories. The obligation to follow ancestral tradition is an Aboriginal virtue. This is done by painting, singing, dancing or taking part in ceremonies. This is an Indigenous living tradition, based on cultural rituals. In addition, the economic and ecological ways for 'looking after country' are told through Dreamtime stories. Looking after country means to express ritual forms of the Dreaming.



Language groups have the right to use the land regarded as their 'territory' and any of its products.

The Importance of the Dreaming

The Dreaming is an important part of Aboriginal culture. It is the way in which the origins and responsibilities of the Aboriginal people are told throughout generations. Through song, dance, painting and storytelling, the rich cultural history of the Australian Aboriginal people is kept alive.

1. Highlight the key words in each paragraph.

2. Describe the key words in each paragraph.

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5. _____

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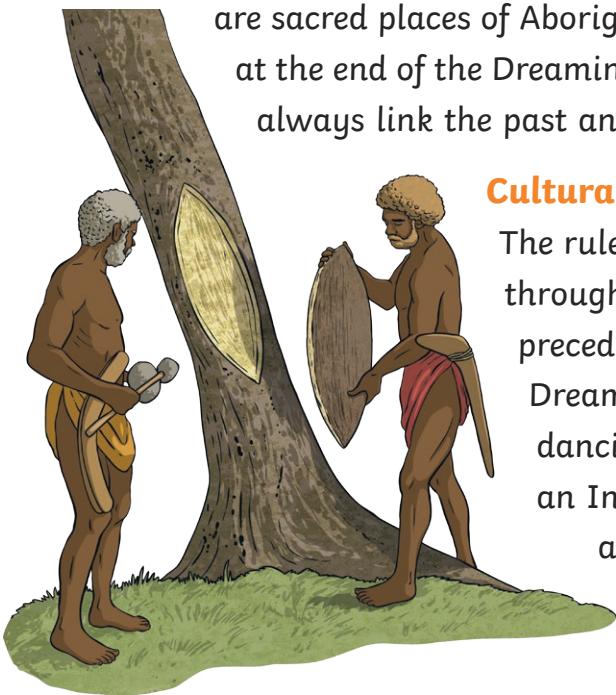
What Is the Dreaming?

Australian Aborigines have the longest surviving cultural history on earth. It is estimated their history dates back 50,000 to 60,000 years. The Aboriginal Dreaming means 'to see and understand the law'. It is the way the Aborigines pass on important knowledge, cultural values and belief systems to future generations. The Dreaming also refers to the Creation period, during which Aboriginal ancestors created the land and animals. The telling of the Dreaming is done using several methods including singing, dancing, painting and storytelling. Whilst expressing the dreaming stories, the Aboriginal people have maintained a link with the Dreaming from ancient times to today, therefore creating and maintaining a rich and cultural heritage.



The Relationship between People, Land and Animals

In many stories of the Dreaming, the deceased ancestors returned to the earth in human form. They moved throughout the land and created the animals, plants, rocks and other land forms. The relationships between Aborigines and the land, the animals and other people were also created by the ancestral beings in this way. After the ancestor spirits created the world, they transformed into trees, the stars, rocks, watering holes or other objects of the land or sky. These are sacred places of Aboriginal culture. The ancestors stayed in these sacred sites at the end of the Dreaming, meaning it is continuous and never-ending and will always link the past and the present, the people and the land.



Cultural Responsibilities

The rules for social conduct, including discipline, are also told through Dreaming stories. The obligation to follow ancestral precedent is an Aboriginal virtue, which involves keeping the Dreaming stories alive. This is done by painting, singing, dancing or through taking part in ceremonies. This is part of an Indigenous living tradition based on cultural rituals. In addition, the economic and ecological responsibilities for 'looking after country' are told through Dreamtime stories. Looking after country means to express



ritual forms of the Dreaming. Language groups have the right to use the land regarded as their 'territory' and any of its products.

Ceremonies

The travels and adventures of the ancestral heroes are occasionally told through a sequence of ceremonies performed by individual groups across a large area. For example, the story of the Wagilag Sisters is told by groups from across most of Arnhem Land. Individual clan groups have knowledge of the different stories which make up this song. Ceremonies about the initiation of young boys will be performed in sequence from one part of Arnhem Land to the next, following the travels of the Wagilag Sisters.

The Importance of the Dreaming

The Dreaming is an important part of Aboriginal culture. It is the way in which the origins and responsibilities of the Aboriginal people are told throughout generations. Through song, dance, painting and storytelling, the rich cultural history of the Australian Aboriginal people is kept alive.

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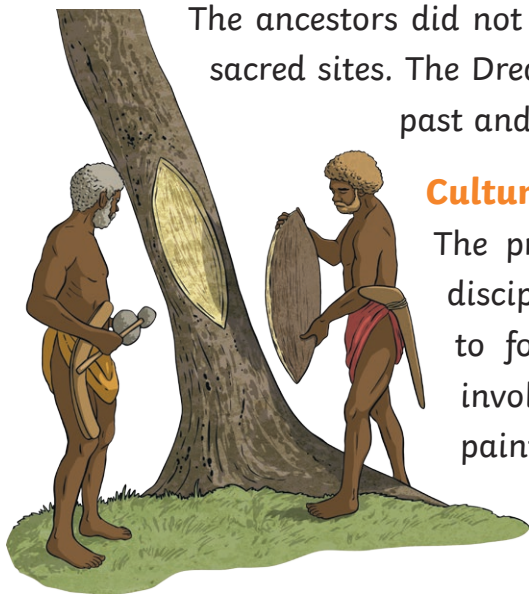
Australian Aborigines have the longest surviving cultural history on earth. It is estimated their history dates back 50,000 to 60,000 years. The Aboriginal Dreaming means 'to see and understand the law'. It is the way the Aborigines pass on important knowledge, cultural values and belief systems to future generations. The Dreaming also refers to the Creation period, during which Aboriginal ancestors created the land and animals. The telling of the Dreaming is done using several methods including singing, dancing, painting and storytelling. Whilst expressing the dreaming stories, the Aboriginal people have maintained a link with the Dreaming from ancient times to today, therefore creating and maintaining a rich and cultural heritage.



The Relationship between People, Land and Animals

In many stories of the Dreaming, the spirits of the ancestors returned to the earth in human form. As they moved throughout the land, they created the animals, plants, rocks and other land formations. The relationships between Aborigines and the land, the animals and other people were also created by the ancestral beings in this way. Once the ancestor spirits created the world, they transformed into trees, the stars, rocks, watering holes or other objects of the land or sky. These are sacred places of Aboriginal culture and have special properties.

The ancestors did not disappear at the end of the Dreaming, but stayed in these sacred sites. The Dreaming is continuous and never-ending and forever links the past and the present, the people and the land.



Cultural Responsibilities

The protocols for social behaviour and consequences, including discipline, are also told through Dreaming stories. The obligation to follow ancestral precedent is an Aboriginal virtue, which involves keeping the Dreaming stories alive. This is done by painting, singing, dancing or through taking part in ceremonies - all of which are linked. This is part of an Indigenous living tradition based on cultural rituals. Traditions and



practices also combine with economic and ecological responsibilities for 'looking after country'. Looking after country means to continue to express these ritual forms of the Dreaming. Language groups have the right to use the land regarded as their 'territory' and any of its products.

Ceremonies

The travels and adventures of the ancestral heroes are occasionally told through a sequence of ceremonies performed by individual language groups across a large area. For example, the story of the Wagilag Sisters is told by clan groups from across most of Arnhem Land. Individual clan groups have knowledge of the different stories which make up this songline. Ceremonies linked with the initiation of young boys will be performed in sequence from one part of Arnhem Land to the next, following the travels of the Wagilag Sisters.

The Importance of the Dreaming

The Dreaming is an integral facet of the Aboriginal culture. It is the way in which the origins and responsibilities of the Aboriginal people are communicated throughout generations. Through song, dance, painting and storytelling, the rich cultural history of the Australian Aboriginal people is kept alive.

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