

Australia's Aborigines

Origins & Culture

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Aborigines

- Aborigines are the indigenous people of Australia.
- They have occupied Australia for at least 40,000 years!
- They arrived from Southeast Asia.
- The word *aborigines* means “people who were here from the beginning”.



Early Life

- They developed efficient ways to adapt to the harsh Australian climate and environment.
- They built containers for storing water and built wells to collect water underground.
- They were hunters and gatherers: ate animals, wild nuts, fruits, and berries.
- They were nomadic--moved from place to place in search of food.



Early Life

- Archaeologists have found several early Aboriginal inventions:
 - Rock art, boomerangs, ground axes, and grindstones
- There is no written record of prehistoric Aborigines.
 - They kept their history by telling stories that were passed down from generation to generation.





Social Structure

- The Aboriginal social structure consisted of a tribe or “language group” of as many as 500 people.
- A tribe included bands called “hordes” of 10 to 20 people.
- Hordes joined for daily food gathering and hunting.



Where?

- Aborigines originally settled in the same places as present-day Australians.
 - The climate was mild and water was available.
- Before Europeans arrived in 1788, around 500,000 Aborigines lived in Australia.

Religion

- Aboriginal religion is called “Dreamtime”.
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- “The Dreaming” is what Aborigines call the beginning of life on Earth.
 - During the Dreaming, spirits created the land, people, and animals.
 - Most of the spirits disappeared, but some live on in objects.



Dreamtime

- Aborigines believe the earth is a link to the spiritual world.
- The land itself is sacred to Aborigines
 - For example, Ayers Rock, known as Uluru to the Aborigines, is a very sacred part of their religion.
- Aborigines have many Dreamtime legends that describe how the earth was created.





Aboriginal Art

- Aboriginal art is a tradition thousands of years old!
 - The artwork most often depicts Dreamtime stories.
- The best known forms of Aboriginal art are rock and bark paintings.
- A more modern tradition is called, Papunya Tula, the “Dot Art” movement.









Music

- The didgeridoo is the most famous Aboriginal musical instrument.
 - It is also known as a yirdaki.
- Clapsticks, accompanying the didgeridoo, are used to keep a song's rhythm.
 - Men played the didgeridoo, while women played the clapsticks.





Arrival of Europeans

- Aborigines lived on Australia's coast, which is where the Europeans wanted to settle.
- Europeans waged war against the Aborigines in order to take their land.

European Advantage

- The Europeans had guns and soldiers.
- They also spread diseases...
 - More than half of the Aborigines in Australia died.
 - The entire Aboriginal population died in Tasmania.

What Happened Next

- The Aborigines were forced to live on reservations in the Outback.
- They were forced to work for Europeans on sheep and cattle ranches.
- Laws were made to limit where Aborigines could live and work.
- Children were even taken away from their parents and sent to European schools.
 - The British hoped to end all Aboriginal culture with their policies.



Aborigines Today

- Only 300,000 Aborigines live in Australia today.
- In the 1960s, policies were changed to be more in favor of Aborigines:
 - They can hold a seat in Parliament.
 - They can have their own schools which teach their culture, language, and art.
- Today, they live modern lives, some are teachers, lawyers, mechanics, nurses, politicians, etc.



**TODAY OUR PEOPLE
ARE DIEING IN THE
HUNDREDS - WHO GIVES A
- DAYN
- ABOUT OUR PEOPLE
IN SILENCE DUE
TO 220+YRS OF ACTS
OF TERRORISM AND
AGGRESSION - OUR KIDS
AND ELDERS
ARE DYING**

OF INTGENERATIONAL DISEASES: RESULTS ARE STRESS RELATED
STROKE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE HEART ATTACKS +
DEPRESSION + SUICIDE + POOR DIETS + ANXIETY
DIEBETES FROM TRAUMA GRIEF AND
SUPRESSED ANGER - PRISONS + LUNATIC ASYLUMS



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