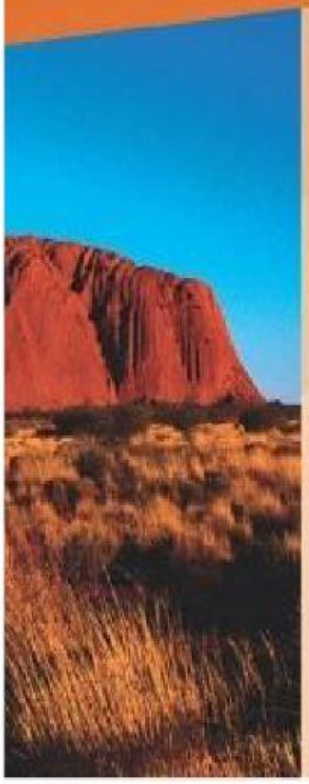
A FAMOUS LANDMARK



THIS PHOTO shows a famous landmark in the desert of central Australia. European explorers saw it for the first time in 1873 and named it Ayers Rock. The original inhabitants of this part of Australia, the Aborigines, call it Uluru. [1]___ It is 348 metres high, 3.6 kilometres long and 1.9 kilometres wide. It is a beautiful red-brown colour, especially when the sun shines on it early in the morning and in the evening.

When tourists want to visit Uluru, they often start 440 kilometres away in a town called Alice Springs. [2]___ People on these trips usually sleep outside under the stars, not in tents, because it's more exciting. A fire keeps away snakes and other animals during the night. And when the sun comes up in the morning, the view of Uluru is amazing. After breakfast, visitors often walk around the base of the rock. [3]___

There are caves around the base of the rock and inside them, you can see paintings. Some of them are thousands of years old. [4]___ By law, Uluru belongs to the Aborigines and they still use it today for religious ceremonies. Because of this, they ask visitors not to climb it. However, about 100,000 visitors each year ignore this request.

1 Read the text. Match sentences A–E with gaps 1–4. There is one sentence that you do not need.

A The Aborigines use these to teach their children about their history and religious beliefs.
B From there, they organise a camping trip into the desert.
C This walk is 9.4 kilometres long and takes two hours.
D But the Aborigines have their own stories about Uluru.
E The rock is huge.

2 Read the text again. Are the sentences true or false?

1 The Aborigines' name for Uluru is 'Ayers Rock'.	True	False
2 It is 348 metres long.	True	False
3 It's easy to visit Uluru from Alice Springs.	True	False
4 Visitors to the rock can see caves.	True	False
5 Today, the Aborigines don't use Uluru for ceremonies.	True	False
6 The Aborigines do not like people climbing the rock.	True	False