

Read the text and decide if the sentences are T (true) or F (false).



Aborigines probably came to Australia from Indonesia 50 000 years ago. The oldest skeleton found in Australia was at Lake Mungo in New South Wales. Archaeologists believe it is 38 000 years old and it carried traces of ceremonial paint.

Aborigines were nomads, wanderers so to say. Originally, they did not have a sense of land ownership, although Aboriginal children were taught from an early age that they belonged to the land and must respect tribal boundaries. Tribes returned to particular places to bury their dead. Some places, like Uluru, were sacred because they were associated with the "Dreamtime", the time when the Earth was formed and cycles of life and nature were begun.

Aboriginal legends, songs and dances tell of powerful spirits who created the land and people during the Dreamtime. There was no written Aboriginal language and, in fact, most of the 600 tribes spoke different dialects and rarely met except on ceremonial occasions. The tradition of the Dreamtime, however, united the people. Rock paintings showing this creation period can be found all over the country. Some of the most spectacular and best preserved can be seen at rock galleries in Kakadu National Park and other parts of northern Australia. The arrival of white people gradually brought an end to the traditional Aboriginal way of life. The "new" Australians began to build and settle on Aborigine tribal lands. Today, most Aboriginals live in cities and towns or in isolated settlements near tribal lands. Few continue the old nomadic way of life.

In recent years, white Australians have become more sensitive to the Aborigines' situation. The result has been an increase in health and educational services, greater recognition of Aboriginal land rights and a growing appreciation of Aboriginal culture. Many museums now display Aboriginal art, music instruments and artifacts.



1. The Aborigines originally came from Europe.

T (true)      F (false)

2. They were farmers who settled on the territory for a long time.

T (true)      F (false)

3. There is no written Aboriginal language.

T (true)      F (false)

4. Europeans destroyed their traditional way of life.

T (true)      F (false)

5. No Aboriginal art or artifacts survive.

T (true)      F (false)