

AUSTRALIA - Dreamtime
from the Mystic Lands Series
VOCABULARY

Anangu - Australian Aborigine nomadic group which makes its home in the Red Center of Australia's mainland near Uluru (Ayers Rock).

Ayers Rock (Uluru) - a vast monolith two miles long and five miles in circumference which reaches a height of more than 1,000 feet. It is believed that two thirds of the Rock lies buried beneath the sand. In 1873, the Australian explorer William Gosse named the rock in honor of Sir Henry Ayers, premier of Australia. It has always been, and remains, Uluru - the "Great Pebble" - to the Aborigines. It is the most sacred of Aboriginal sites.

Dreamtime - The Australian Aborigine age of creation. It is also a realm where the spirits still exist, an ongoing spiritual reality for the Aborigines. The paths the Spirit Ancestors took on their journeys are called Dreaming tracks or songlines. Following these tracks, telling the ancient stories, and singing the ancestral songs enables the Aborigines to enter into the world of the Dreaming and become as one with the Spirit Ancestors and the landscape. For the Aborigines, Dreaming (Dreamtime) is not just the act of primordial creation, it is also, and most significantly, an eternal dimension of time continuous with the present.

Kata Tjuta - a collection of smaller, more rounded rocks which stand 25 miles west of Uluru. Meaning "many heads", Kata Tjuta is a sacred Dreaming site of the Aborigines. It is considered to be of such significance that the Anangu refuse to speak of it to outsiders.

Kuniya - mythical, native, non-venomous, carpet-snakes people. According to aboriginal belief, the Kuniya fought an epic battle at Mutijilda, an Ayers Rock gorge, against the Liru.

Liru - mythical poisonous snake-warriors. According to tradition, the Liru engaged in an epic battle against the Kuniya.

Mudungkala - According to legend, Mudungkala, an old blind woman, rose from the underground carrying her three children in a basket. She gave her children fire, covered the earth with living things and then left her children to settle the earth. The Tiwi believe they are descendants of Mudungkala.

Pukamani poles - special burial poles of the Tiwi. These boldly decorated, colorful poles serve as a way to remember the deceased and as a means of protection for the one who has died, as well as the survivors.

Tiwi - Australian Aborigine group which makes their home on the islands of Melville and Bathurst off Australia's northern coast, near Darwin. Until this century their island homes kept them fairly isolated from mainland influences. Tiwi culture still retains much of its unique character. Most Tiwi live on Bathurst Island.

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VIEWER'S GUIDE**

Directions: Answer the following questions immediately after viewing the video or as instructed by your teacher. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. Australia's Aborigine tribes are spiritually bound together by what legend?
2. What is the Dreamtime legend of creation?
3. What do the Aborigines believe about their ancestors' spirits?
4. What is the essence of Dreamtime?
5. What is Ayers Rock? What is its Aborigine name?
6. How does abiding by Dreamtime laws help contemporary Aborigines?
7. Why do the Aborigines continue to reenact their ancestral Dreamtime stories?
8. How is the story of the battle between the Kuniya and Luri recorded?
9. What taboo surrounds Kata Tjuta?
10. How do the Tiwi believe their islands were created?
11. What are the Pukamani poles? What is their importance and when are they used?
12. What is the Aborigine relationship to the land ?

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WORD MATCH

Directions: Match the terms in the column on the left with the correct definition in the column of the right.

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| 1. _____ Liru | A. According to legend, an old blind woman who rose from the underground carrying her three children in a basket. She gave them fire, covered the earth with living things, and then left them to settle the earth. |
| 2. _____ Dreamtime | B. Australian Aborigine nomadic group which makes its home in the Red Center of Australia's mainland near Uluru. |
| 3. _____ Anangu | C. Mythical poisonous snake-warriors. |
| 4. _____ Kuniya | D. The Australian Aborigine age of creation; a realm where the spirits still exist, an ongoing spiritual reality for the Aborigines. |
| 5. _____ Mudungkala | E. A sacred Dreaming site of the Aborigines; it is considered to be of such significance that the Anangu refuse to speak of it to outsiders. |
| 6. _____ Ayers Rock (Uluru) | F. Mythical, native, non-venomous, carpet-snakes people. |
| 7. _____ Kata Tjuta | G. The most sacred of Aboriginal sites. |
| 8. _____ Tiwi | H. Australian Aborigine group which makes their home on the islands of Melville and Bathurst off Australia's northern coast. Their culture still retains much of its unique character. |
| 9. _____ Aborigine | I. Serve as a way to remember the deceased and as a means of protection for the one who has died as well as the survivors. |
| 10. _____ Pukamani poles | J. An original inhabitant of a country or area. |

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QUIZ**

Directions: Answer the following questions using the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. What legend do all Australian Aborigines share?

2. What is Kata Tjuta? Why is it important?

3. What Aborigine group makes it home on the islands of Melville and Bathurst off of Australia's northern coast?

4. What is the Aborigine name for Ayers Rock?

5. What Aborigine group makes it home in the Red Center of Australia's mainland near Uluru?

6. Why do the Aborigines consider the land sacred?

7. What ceremony is celebrated when a Tiwi dies? What happens during this ceremony?

8. Why is it important that the ancestral Dreamtime stories continue to be reenacted?

9. What is the name of the mythical poisonous snake-warriors that engaged in an epic battle with the Kuniya?

10. How do the Tiwi prepare for their ritual dances?