

## Geography Alive: Stage 3 (Topic 1: Factors that shape places)

Lesson 1: Indigenous cultures and their link to the environment		
<p><b>Content focus:</b></p> <p>In this lesson, students investigate how people interact with and change the natural environment in Australia. They also explore how the environment influences the human characteristics of places and how people influence the characteristics of places, including the management of spaces. In doing so, we examine the unique interactions of Indigenous Australians with the natural environment.</p>		<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Teacher Resource Sheet 1: Indigenous Australians.</a></li> <li>• <i>YouTube clip: Dreaming</i> – <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGhRUR-A1Y">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGhRUR-A1Y</a> or similar</li> <li>• <i>YouTube clip: The Aboriginal Creation Myth</i> – <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koxp_q46z0Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koxp_q46z0Q</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Key inquiry questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How long have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples occupied the Australian continent and adjacent islands?</li> <li>• What is the nature of the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the environment?</li> <li>• How do people and environments influence one another?</li> <li>• How do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples influence places and the management of spaces within them?</li> <li>• What is meant by the 'Dreaming' or 'Dreamtime'?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describes the diverse features and characteristics of places and environments</li> <li>• explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments</li> <li>• compares and contrasts influences on the management of places and environments</li> <li>• acquires, processes and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lesson sequence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Step 1:</b> Using the background information provided on <b>Teacher Resource Sheet 1</b>, introduce students to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Points to emphasise include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The length of time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have occurred the Australian continent and surrounding islands.</li> <li>• The nature of their interactions with the environment</li> <li>• That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia have the longest surviving culture on earth. One that is based on a largely oral tradition (explain what this means).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Step 2:</b> Using the background information provided on <b>Teacher Resource Sheet 1</b>, introduce students to the key elements of Indigenous culture and its link to the natural world. In doing so, explain the meaning of 'The Dreaming' or 'Dreamtime' to students. There are several useful <i>YouTube</i> clips that can be used to support this stage of the lesson. See, for example, <i>Dreamtime – Dreamtime is the Aboriginal understanding of the world, of its creation, and its great stories. The Aboriginal people believe that the earth and everything in it were made by their ancestral spirits. The Dreamtime is the beginning of knowledge, from which came the laws of existence.</i></li> <li>• <b>Step 3:</b> Compare the creation story of Indigenous Australians with that of other First Peoples. A good resource is the creation story by the Australian Aboriginals from the <i>Big Myth</i> collection. See all 25 of creation stories from different parts of the world in English. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koxp_q46z0Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koxp_q46z0Q</a> Ask students to identify the common elements of the creation stories.</li> <li>• <b>Step 4:</b> Class discussion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the link that an indigenous person has with their land?</li> <li>2. How have these beliefs been maintained over very long periods?</li> <li>3. What is the role of the Ancestor Spirits in the Dreaming?</li> <li>4. Discuss the importance of animals to indigenous peoples.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>