

Reading

Aboriginal Australia

Before 1788 only Aboriginal people lived in Australia. They spoke many different languages and there was a strong tradition of telling stories. These stories taught children many things about the land. Today, a lot of aboriginal teenagers learn about their history and culture through these stories. One of the most important stories is The Rainbow Serpent or Rainbow Snake.



The Rainbow Serpent is an enormous snake. It appears to people as a rainbow, or moves through water and rain. The serpent is sometimes creative. It gives names to places and it sings about these places. The snake also gives things to people. It can help sick people and make others stronger. But the Rainbow Serpent can be dangerous too. So if you see it in Australia, be careful!

The British anthropologist Professor Alfred Radcliffe-Brown saw that many Aboriginal groups across Australia told similar stories about a snake. Each group had a different name for this snake. In 1926, Radcliffe-Brown first used the term Rainbow Serpent, to talk about the snake in these stories. Today the Rainbow Serpent myth is well-known. It is used as an excellent example of Australian Aboriginal mythology.

1  **55** Read the text. Circle the correct option.

- 1** Before 1788 Aboriginal people ...
 - a** didn't live in Australia.
 - b** spoke more than one language.
 - c** told stories in one language.
- 2** Nowadays the stories ...
 - a** teach many aboriginal young people about their past.
 - b** teach people about snakes.
 - c** teach teenagers how to tell a story.
- 3** The Rainbow Serpent is ...
 - a** not very big.
 - b** very small.
 - c** very big.
- 4** The Rainbow Serpent ...
 - a** is always good.
 - b** is always bad.
 - c** can be good and bad.
- 5** Professor Alfred Radcliffe-Brown ...
 - a** invented the term Rainbow Serpent.
 - b** had a different name for each of the snakes in the stories.
 - c** invented the stories about the snake.

- 6** The Rainbow Serpent ...
 - a** is not well known today.
 - b** is still talked about today.
 - c** is the only example of Australian Aboriginal mythology.

Listening

2  **56** Listen. True (t) or false (f)?

- 1** The speaker found the information in different places. ___
- 2** European people arrived in Australia after Indigenous people. ___
- 3** Indigenous people hunted and fished too much. ___
- 4** They moved around from one place to another. ___
- 5** The women often hunted large animals. ___
- 6** Young people learned about their culture by reading books. ___
- 7** There are different Aboriginal groups today. ___
- 8** Dreamtime is the name of one Aboriginal group. ___