

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Aboriginal Kinship System

We *know* incest is bad. Traditions and legislations have been introduced to prohibit incest. For example, the WA Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913 says:

*A person who sexually penetrates a person of or over the age of 18 years who the offender knows is his or her lineal relative is guilty of a crime and is liable to imprisonment for 3 years.*

Today we will discuss the regulations the Aboriginal people introduced to avoid it: the kinship system.



1. You may have heard of the following words: moiety, totem and skin. Find the meaning of the three words, **in terms of the kinship system**, and write their meanings in one or two sentences below.
  - Moiety
  - Totem
  - Skin
2. Under the Aboriginal customs, one cannot marry anyone – there are strict rules on who can marry whom. Briefly explain the rules. Give one example, using the names from a specific language group.

3. What does it mean by 'wrong skin marriage'?
  4. How does the kinship system prevent incest?
  5. When the Europeans first arrived in Australia, how did the Aboriginal Australians apply the marriage rules to the non-Aboriginals?
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6. How do you think of the kinship system? Write one positive thought and negative thought.

- Positives:

- Negatives:

7. Tell one similarity and one difference of the kinship system and the European concept of families.

- Similarities:

- Differences: