

# ● Singing the Land

**How do Aborigines put their attachment to their land into words?**

## 1 Belonging

- A. Read the poem. What emotions and sensations does it evoke to you?  
B. Aboriginal people say that "the land owns them" and not that they own the land. How is this reflected in this poem? Pick out relevant details.

## YOUR TURN! 2 Write a poem

Write a reply poem that the land tells Nola. You can use Nola's poem and change the point of view, line by line.

### Mother Earth

I belong to this land  
It runs through my veins  
It's the earth in my bones  
It's the dry dusty plains  
5 It's the whispering wind  
As she blows through the sand  
It's the sparkling salt water  
That trickles through my hands  
It's the feeling I get  
10 When I return to my place  
It's deep down inside me  
It's my Mother Earth space.

Nola Gregory,  
Mother Earth, 2018



### YOUR PROJECT

Take part in an Aboriginal art workshop to create a Dreamtime painting of an Australian landscape like the one on the photograph.

Imagine the story behind the painting. Use Worksheet n°65 for help.

# LANGUAGE LAB



- Unit's vocabulary
- Audio words
- MP3
- Interactive Test

## ★ 1. Match these words with their translation.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| A. yonder     | 1. ici      |
| B. there      | 2. celui-ci |
| C. this       | 3. là-bas   |
| D. over there | 4. ceux-ci  |
| E. there      | 5. celui-ci |
| F. those      | 6. là       |
| G. here       | 7. celui-là |

## ★ 2. Complete the sentences with the words below.

and thither • and down • of beyond • going  
• nor there • under

- A. The problem is neither here...
- B. In the Outback, you can drift hither...
- C. The kangaroo was pacing up...
- D. Tourists keep coming and...
- E. He lives in a shack in the back...
- F. Australia and New Zealand are often referred to as Down...

## ★ 3. Read the definitions and match them with the correct word. Then, use them in a correct sentence.

- A. a person having authority by virtue of age and experience
  - B. a person who tells stories
  - C. the relationship between different members of a family
  - D. an inherited or customary pattern of thought, action, or behaviour
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. kinship     | 3. a storyteller |
| 2. a tradition | 4. an elder      |

## ★★ 4. Read these sentences and find the mystery words.

Aborigines used to travel the land, they were n.... people. They used to s.... stories to m.... the paths and their history. The songs were about l..., p.... and a.... .

## ★★★ 5. In the following sentences, replace the underlined words with a synonym.

- A. Over 40,000 years ago, the Aboriginal people set off on a migration.
- B. They devised rafts that could cross oceans.
- C. Historians seldom talk about Aboriginal history and find researching it baffling because nomadic peoples with oral transmission leave little architectural trace.
- D. The first Europeans who settled in Australia thought that Aborigines were a brave but inscrutable people.

## 6. Interactive test! What is your score?



## OPEN YOUR EARS!

### TRAVEL WITH ACCENTS!

L'accent australien, appelé « Strine » (Austraaaalian), est reconnaissable en raison de la prononciation de certaines voyelles !

• Écoutez ce passage dit par une locutrice australienne. Puis écoutez-le lu avec un accent britannique en faisant particulièrement attention aux éléments en gras.



n°134



n°135

"The more I give... the more I keep" is the philosophy of Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison, a Yuin elder from Narooma on the South East Coast of Australia.  
[...] These words of wisdom [...] will bring continued spiritual blessing to this great land.

### Quelles différences entendez-vous ?

- Que remarquez-vous concernant le son /i:/ ?
  - Que remarquez-vous concernant le son /e/ ?
  - Que remarquez-vous concernant le son /er/ ?
- Comparez-le au son /aɪ/.

### AUDIO MYSTERY

Listen and find out your mission(s).

MP3



## Quote challenge

★3 sentences

★★4 to 6 sentences

★★★7 sentences and +

Which quote sums up best what you have learnt?  
Justify!

"We cultivated our land, but in a way different from the white man. We endeavour to live with the land; they seemed to live off it."

Tom Dystra, Aboriginal Elder

"In white society, a person's home is a structure made of bricks or timber, but to our people our home was the land that we hunted and gathered on and held ceremony and gatherings."

Nala Mansell-McKenna,  
Youth Worker, Tasmanian Aborigine