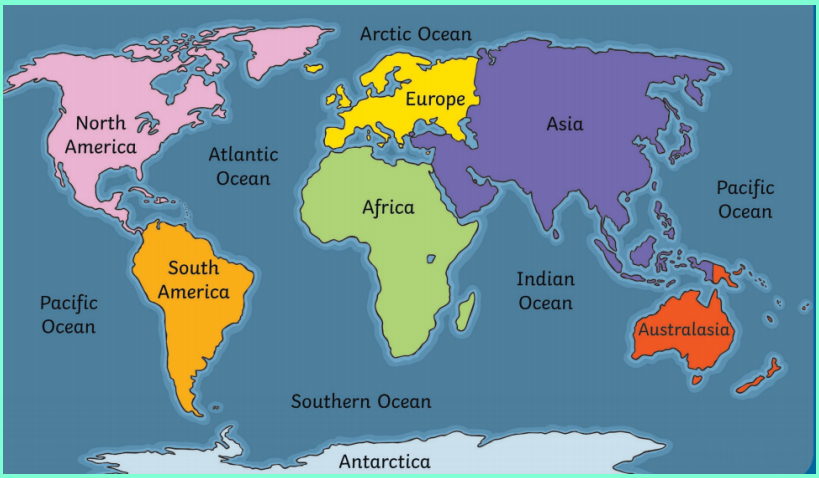
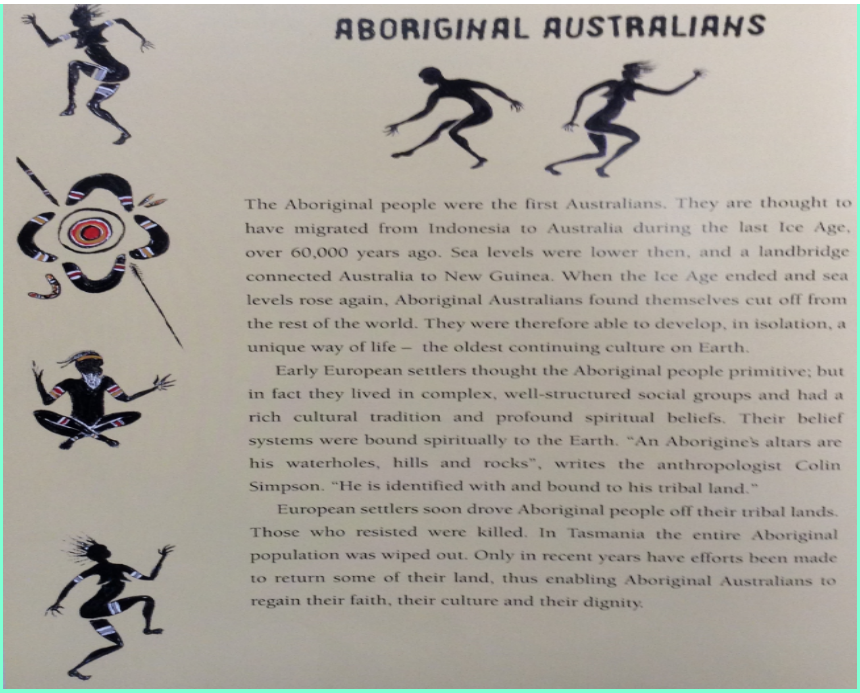
LO: To find information in the non-fiction text to answer questions



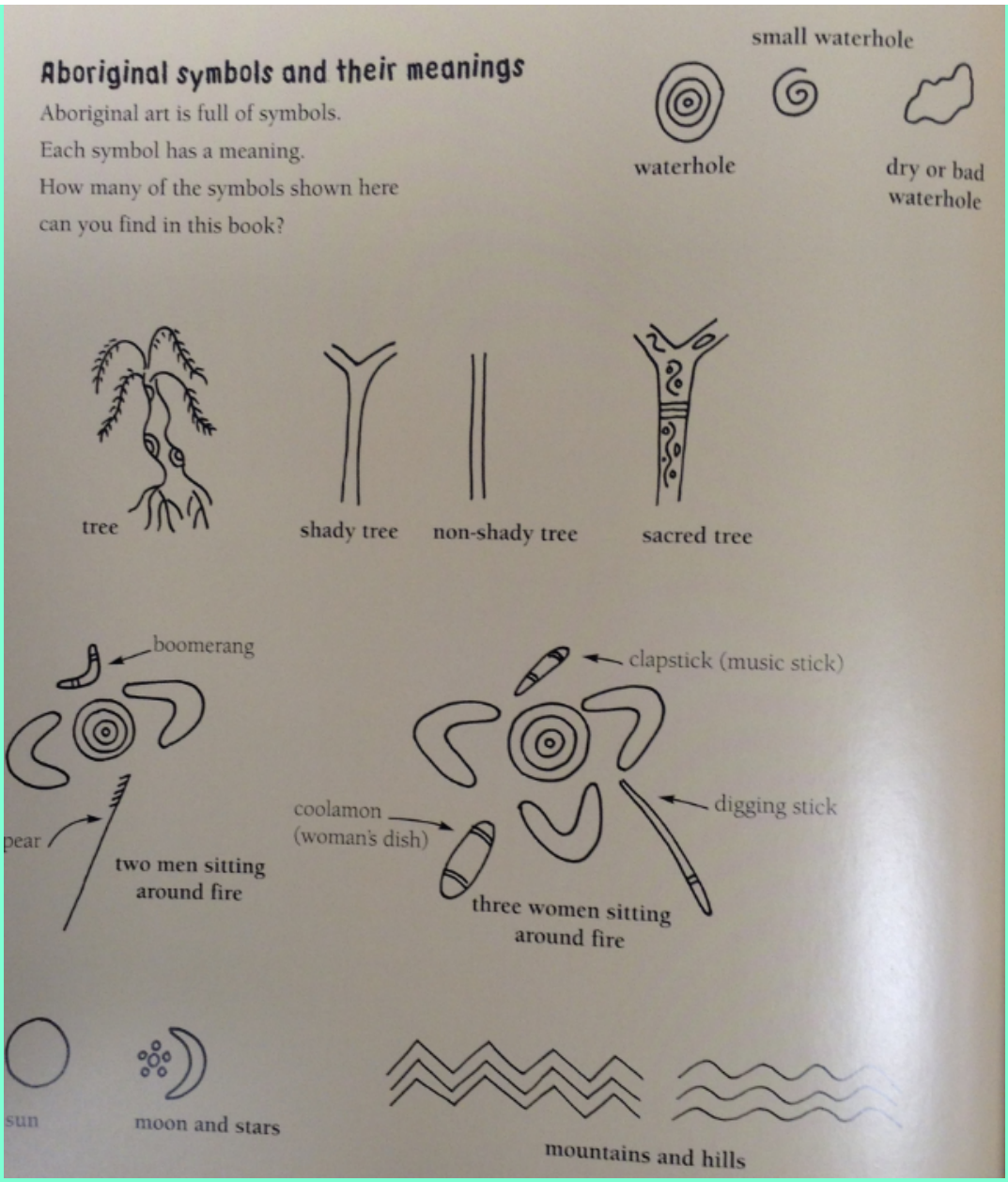


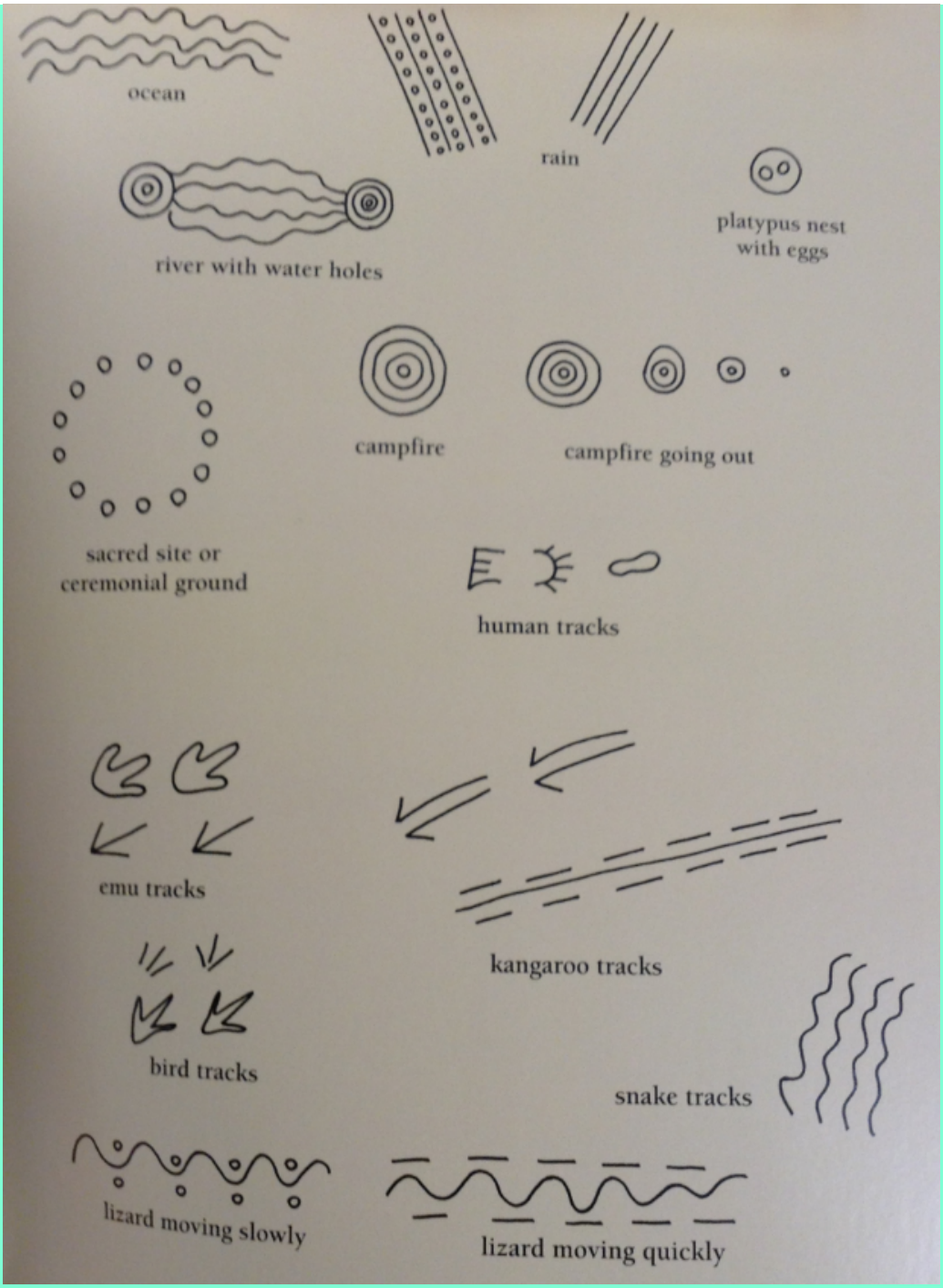
# ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS

The Aboriginal people were the first Australians. They are thought to have migrated from Indonesia to Australia during the last Ice Age, over 60,000 years ago. Sea levels were lower then, and a landbridge connected Australia to New Guinea. When the Ice Age ended and sea levels rose again, Aboriginal Australians found themselves cut off from the rest of the world. They were therefore able to develop, in isolation, a unique way of life – the oldest continuing culture on Earth.

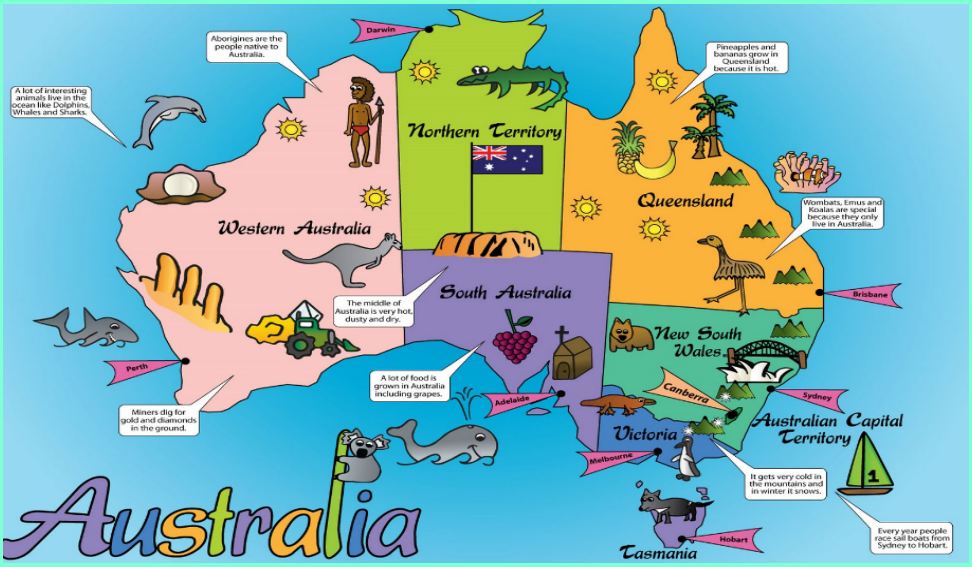
Early European settlers thought the Aboriginal people primitive; but in fact they lived in complex, well-structured social groups and had a rich cultural tradition and profound spiritual beliefs. Their belief systems were bound spiritually to the Earth. "An Aborigine's altars are his waterholes, hills and rocks", writes the anthropologist Colin Simpson. "He is identified with and bound to his tribal land."

European settlers soon drove Aboriginal people off their tribal lands. Those who resisted were killed. In Tasmania the entire Aboriginal population was wiped out. Only in recent years have efforts been made to return some of their land, thus enabling Aboriginal Australians to regain their faith, their culture and their dignity.


Aboriginal symbols and their meanings
Aboriginal art is full of symbols.
Each symbol has a meaning.
How many of the symbols shown here
can you find in this book?
small waterhole
waterhole
dry or bad waterhole
tree
shady tree
non-shady tree
sacred tree
boomerang
pear
two men sitting around fire
clapstick (music stick)
coolamon (woman's dish)
digging stick
three women sitting around fire
sun
moon and stars
mountains and hills


ocean
rain
river with water holes
platypus nest with eggs
campfire
campfire going out
sacred site or ceremonial ground
human tracks
emu tracks
kangaroo tracks
bird tracks
snake tracks
lizard moving slowly
lizard moving quickly

Today we're going to find out about a famous landmark in Australia.
Can you spot **Uluru** (Ayres Rock) on this map of Australia?



# Uluru



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUADPqYbnvI





Aboriginal Rock Paintings discovered on Uluru - this is the oldest ongoing tradition of art in the world.

| | Glossary |
|---|---|
| circumference | distance around something (often a circle). |
| vertical | something that rises straight up and down. |
| ancestral | person from whom one is descended. |
| shrine | holy or sacred place with something important inside it (such as the tomb of a religious person). |
| ebbed | move away from the land (tidewater) |

Finding answers on the first read:-

LO: To find information in the text to answer questions.

1. What was Uluru once known as?

2. What is the circumference of Uluru?

3. Where do scientists believe that Uluru was made?

4. Name two other beliefs of how Ayres Rock was created.

5. Why shouldn't people climb Uluru?

6. Would you like to visit Uluru - give a reason for your answer.

## Uluru

*Uluru, which used to be known as Ayers Rock, is one of the wonders of the natural world: a huge outcrop of rock, 9.4 km (six miles) in circumference, rising almost vertically out of the desert to a height of over a thousand feet. There are two explanations as to how it was formed.*

*According to scientists, Uluru is the top of a buried hill. They say that about 130 million years ago, the sea flooded into central Australia, turning Uluru into an island, and that the waves pounding the shore of the island formed great caves. Then the sea ebbed away, leaving Uluru surrounded by sand.*

*According to some Aboriginal Australians, Uluru was created by the Lizard-Man. But to other Aboriginal people its rocks are the actual bones of their ancestral heroes of the Dreamtime – the legendary beginning of the world. Some of its caves are covered with the most beautiful Aboriginal rock paintings, tens of thousands of years old; they are now being retouched to revive their symbolic powers.*

*In 1986 the Australian Government returned the ownership of Uluru to the Aboriginal people. The rock is now under the joint control of the Aboriginal people and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Services, who safeguard it as a shrine and a tourist attraction. Aboriginal Australians would be grateful if visitors didn't climb Uluru, since for them it is a sacred place.*

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