Reading!

LO: To retrieve key information from the text.



What country is this?



Australia!

Brief history of Australia:

In 1788, which is around 230 years ago, a man called Captain Arthur Phillip led around 11 British ships from the UK, to Australia. These ships were full of British prisoners, who were being punished for their crimes. They were taken to Australia to live together, rather than staying in Britain.

Before they arrived in Australia, there were people that already lived there, called the indigenous aborigines. These people were ancient tribes that had lived there for over 50,000 years. Unfortunately, the British soldiers and prisoners killed a lot of the aboriginal people.

There are still some aboriginal people left in Australia, and they have passed their stories, legends and beliefs down through their generations.

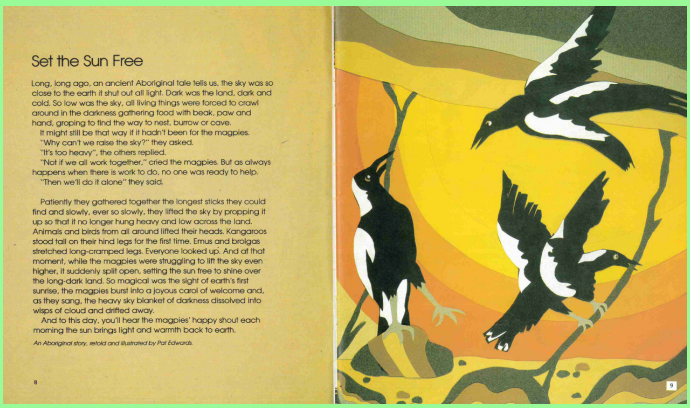






Brief outline of the text:

How did the sun get to be so high in the sky? The aboriginal tribes have a legend that tells us what they believe. This tale has been re-told and illustrated by Pat Edwards. It is called 'Set the sun free.'



Set the Sun Free

Long, long ago, an ancient Aboriginal tale tells us, the sky was so close to the earth it shut out all light. Dark was the land, dark and cold. So low was the sky, all living things were forced to crawl around in the darkness gathering food with beak, paw and hand, groping to find the way to nest, burrow or cave.

It might still be that way if it hadn't been for the magpies.

"Why can't we raise the sky?" they asked.

"It's too heavy", the others replied.

"Not if we all work together," cried the magpies. But as always happens when there is work to do, no one was ready to help.

"Then we'll do it alone" they said.

Patiently they gathered together the longest sticks they could find and slowly, ever so slowly, they lifted the sky by propping it up so that it no longer hung heavy and low across the land. Animals and birds from all around lifted their heads. Kangaroos stood tall on their hind legs for the first time. Emus and bolgas stretched long-cramped legs. Everyone looked up. And at that moment, while the magpies were struggling to lift the sky even higher, it suddenly split open, setting the sun free to shine over the long-dark land. So magical was the sight of earth's first sunrise, the magpies burst into a joyous carol of welcome and, as they sang, the heavy sky blanket of darkness dissolved into wisps of cloud and drifted away.

And to this day, you'll hear the magpies' happy shout each morning the sun brings light and warmth back to earth.

An Aboriginal story, retold and illustrated by Pat Edwards.

8

Questions:

1. What were all living things forced to do?
2. How did the magpies manage to lift the sky?
3. Which animals stretched their legs?
4. What word is used to describe the sight of the world's first sunrise?
5. What do the magpies do to this day?

Glossary:

1. Aboriginal – Aboriginal people are people who lived in Australia before the British invaded.
2. groping – feeling around to find something
3. burrow – to dig into the ground
4. cried – shouted
5. propping – holding something up with an object
6. hind - back
7. brolgas – a type of bird
8. cramped – achy and in pain
9. dissolved – disappeared by breaking away into tiny pieces



Set the Sun Free

Long, long ago, an ancient Aboriginal tale tells us, the sky was so close to the earth it shut out all light. Dark was the land, dark and cold. So low was the sky, all living things were forced to crawl around in the darkness gathering food with beak, paw and hand, groping to find the way to nest, burrow or cave.

It might still be that way if it hadn't been for the magpies.

"Why can't we raise the sky?" they asked.

"It's too heavy", the others replied.

"Not if we all work together," cried the magpies. But as always happens when there is work to do, no one was ready to help.

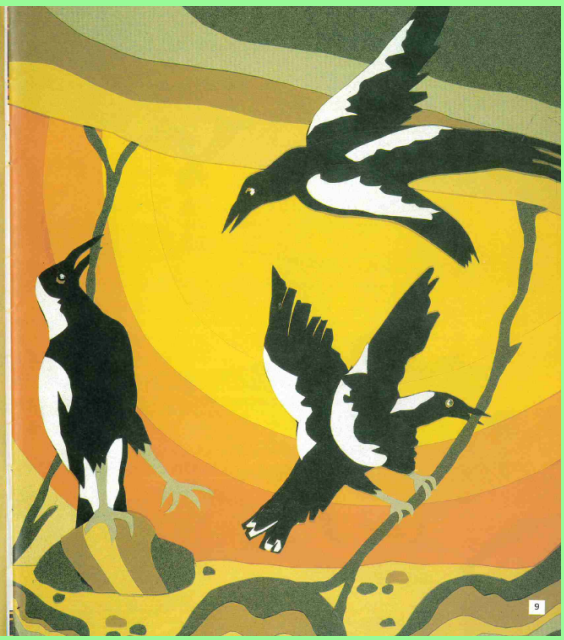
"Then we'll do it alone" they said.

Patiently they gathered together the longest sticks they could find and slowly, ever so slowly, they lifted the sky by propping it up so that it no longer hung heavy and low across the land. Animals and birds from all around lifted their heads. Kangaroos stood tall on their hind legs for the first time. Emus and brolgas stretched long-cramped legs. Everyone looked up. And at that moment, while the magpies were struggling to lift the sky even higher, it suddenly split open, setting the sun free to shine over the long-dark land. So magical was the sight of earth's first sunrise, the magpies burst into a joyous carol of welcome and, as they sang, the heavy sky blanket of darkness dissolved into wisps of cloud and drifted away.

And to this day, you'll hear the magpies' happy shout each morning the sun brings light and warmth back to earth.

An Aboriginal story, retold and illustrated by Pat Edwards.

8



9

Questions:

1. What were all living things forced to do?
2. How did the magpies manage to lift the sky?
3. Which animals stretched their legs?
4. What word is used to describe the sight of the world's first sunrise?
5. What do the magpies do to this day?