

DISCOVER
OUR AMAZING
WORLD

CLIL READERS

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS

Virginia Evans
Jenny Dooley



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New Lands, New Cultures

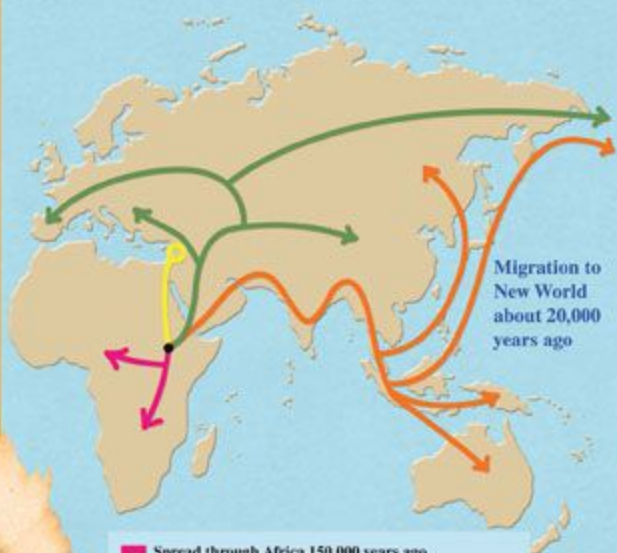
Homo sapiens – modern humans – appeared in Africa 200,000 years ago. From that cradle of humanity, they migrated around the world. Traveling through what is now Egypt's Nile Valley, they arrived in Asia about 100,000 years ago. They spread out along the coast of Southeast Asia and remained there for many years. About 50,000 years ago, they took the next step. They left their Southeast Asian home and crossed a short waterway to a new land – a place we now call Australia.

These people were the first Aboriginal Australians, and there are still groups of these people living in Australia to this day. In fact, the Aboriginal Australians form one of the world's oldest living cultures. The ancestors of modern Europeans did not arrive in Europe until 40,000 years ago. North America had no *Homo sapiens* until 15,000 years ago.

Sometimes people use the word 'aborigine' to refer to indigenous people of any geographic area. In Australia, people call them 'Australian Aborigines' 'Aboriginal Australians,' 'Aboriginal people,' or 'indigenous Australians'. The Aboriginal people live in all parts of the country and on nearby islands.



MIGRATION OF HOMO SAPIENS



- Spread through Africa 150,000 years ago
- Occupied Levant 180,000 to 80,000 years ago
- Arrived in Australia and East Asia by 50,000 years ago
- Arrived in Europe and Siberia by 40,000 years ago

Some people used the word 'Aboriginals' to refer to Aboriginal Australians. Using *just* that word is now considered offensive.

In Australia, the Aboriginal people created a rich culture. As they spread out, they naturally separated into numerous tribes. Though each one had its own distinctive language and traditions, they were united by a common lifestyle. Taking advantage of Australia's many natural resources, these Aboriginal Australians hunted, fished and collected plants to survive. They were true nomads, never staying in one place too long. All of their possessions came from the land. They created tools from plants and clothes from animal skins. As a result, they maintained a deep connection to the environment. Indeed, many of their customs, religious beliefs and mythological stories emphasized a positive relationship with the natural world.

