



Dreamtime
Morning speech #6
By Sophie



Good morning. Last week I told the first year students about Australian Aboriginal people. I would like to talk more about the Australian Indigenous culture, because it is rich and vibrant but not very well known in Japan. Aboriginal Australians used to have over 250 different languages and many different tribes across the whole of Australia. These languages were unique in that it was only spoken, not written down. For Aboriginal culture, songs and stories were very important to pass on lessons and their history to the younger generations.

These stories are now known as 'Dreamtime' or 'Dreaming'. The reason why it is called Dreaming is because the stories go back to the time when Aboriginal Australian people believed spirits travelled around the earth, creating creatures, the rivers, the land, the plants and so on. Aboriginal Australians are deeply spiritual, and Dreaming was one way to connect with the spirits and teach children.

In Australia, we are taught about Dreaming in Elementary School. One of my favourite stories was called 'Tiddalick the Frog'. It was said that this frog was so powerful and so greedy he could drink up all the water on the land. The animals were very concerned and tried to get him to laugh to release all the water. It took the effort of five different animals, and finally the snake was able to make him laugh. Tiddalick couldn't hold onto his laughter and released all the water back onto the land. As you can see, many of the Dreamtime stories include the Australian animals and the land in some way.



In more recent times, many of the Aboriginal languages have been lost because they are not speaking it at home, and when the first Europeans came to Australia, they were forced to only speak English. It is a real shame that we have lost so many of their languages, but the Aboriginal elders and community are working hard to preserve the language in writing now.

Please choose the correct answer:

1) What is Dreamtime? A) Aboriginal language B) Aboriginal stories C) Tiddalick the Frog D) A special song	2) Why is Dreamtime important A) It is a way to pass on language B) It is a way to teach lessons C) It is important for the Indigenous culture D) All of the above
3) How many languages do Aboriginals have? A) Several hundred B) Several thousands C) Only one hundred D) Over two hundred and fifty	4) Why have so many Indigenous languages been lost? A) They were forced to only use English B) It's not spoken at home as much C) Answers A & B D) English is an easier language to learn