

Dreamtime stories

Aboriginal people believe we remember how the world was created in our dreams. They tell creation stories during Dreamtime ceremonies. One of these stories is the Rainbow Serpent.

The most common version of the Rainbow Serpent story tells that in the Dreaming, the world was flat, bare and cold. The Rainbow Serpent slept under the ground with all the animal tribes in her belly waiting to be born. When it was time, she pushed up, calling to the animals to come from their sleep. She threw the land out, making mountains and hills and spilled water over the land, making rivers and lakes. She made the sun, the fire and all the colours.

Vocabulary:

The Dreaming = the moment when ancestral spirits created life.

Bare = without trees or grass

1) In the first paragraph, pick out three verbs which can describe Dreamtime:

- believe - remember - was created (to be created)

Now, in your own words explain what the Dreamtime is: The Dreamtime is the stories about the creation of the world. The dreaming is believed to be the moment when the world was created.

2) Pick out the proper noun which refers to a Dreamtime story: Rainbow Serpent

Pick out the three adjectives which describe the world during the Dreaming

- Flat - Bare - cold

Now explain what the Rainbow Serpent did: She gave birth to all the animals. She also made rivers, lakes, sun, fire, mountains, ... So, she created the world and life.

Recap: Aboriginal people believe in the Dreaming, which is the moment when ancestral spirits created life and the world.

Aboriginal people have many stories about the Dreaming, one of them is the Rainbow Serpent.