

Star stories

answers

1. Match the words to the definitions.

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| a) Australia | 2) a country in the Southern Hemisphere |
| b) South America | 7) a continent which is mostly in the Southern Hemisphere |
| c) the Milky Way | 1) our galaxy in the universe |
| d) a star constellation | 9) a pattern of stars in the night sky |
| e) a dark constellation | 4) a pattern in the sky where there are no stars |
| f) the Aborigines | 8) the indigenous people of Australia |
| g) the Incas | 5) an ancient civilization of South America |
| h) an emu | 6) a big bird that cannot fly |
| i) a snake | 3) a reptile that hasn't got legs |

2. Use the words in the box to complete the text.

Aborigines	birds	constellation	dark constellations	disappear
eat	father	light pollution	mountains	snake
				South America

At night, people around the world look up at the sky and see patterns in the stars. A long time ago, when people did not live in big cities with a lot of light pollution, the stars were very important for teaching us about our planet. We used the patterns we saw to travel by land and sea.

A group of stars make a pattern called a constellation. People saw many different objects in the constellations, for example, animals like fish, birds, lions, dogs and bears. The animals move in the sky because the Earth is always turning.

The Milky Way looks white in the night sky because we can see many stars in it. Because it is white, the Aborigines of Australia and the Incas of South America looked at the dark spaces to find the patterns. These patterns are called dark constellations.

In Australia, Aborigines show their children the Emu in the Sky. In March, April and May, the emu is lying down with two eggs next to her. She is the mother and this is the when the eggs are good to eat. People take the eggs, but they leave some for the emus.

In June and July, the emu is looking down. The emu is now the father and the eggs are going to hatch. Now people start to leave the eggs because the babies are growing inside them. Because of the Emu in the Sky, the people know when to take the emu eggs and when to leave them. Children also learn that the father is the one who looks after the babies.

The Incas saw a big snake in the dark part of the Milky Way. In August the head of the snake appears. In November and December, the whole snake is in the sky. This is also when the snakes come out from the Andes mountains. In February the snake in the sky starts to disappear. The snakes on Earth go back to the mountains at the same time that the big snake in the sky disappears.