

Listening

Understanding a media interview

 Listen and read the interview between Langdon Rodda, from AMES, and Jason Tamiru, from Museum Victoria: part 1.

Jason, can you tell us a little about yourself please?

Well firstly, I'm an Aboriginal man, an indigenous Australian, a Koori. That means Victorian Aboriginal. Aboriginal people, we get our knowledge through our elders, through our mother and father, grandparents, uncles and aunties. So it's very important that we mention our family all the time to understand who I am and where I come from. I am the grandson of Pastor Doug Nicholls* and Lady Nicholls. I'm the son of Lillian Tamiru, who is a respected elder here in Victoria and also I'm the son of Addis Tamiru who's an Ethiopian African, who was the first Ethiopian here in Australia. And living here in Melbourne he's a leader of all Ethiopian people here in Victoria.



How long have the Aboriginal people been in Australia and where did they come from?

Aboriginal people have been on this land for 100,000 years, which is a long, long time, making us one of the oldest living cultures anywhere in the world. That's something that we're very, very proud of. I get my knowledge from my elders and they have told me I come from the earth. My people have come from the earth. We're made up from the spirit of this land. So my spirit comes from Yorta Yorta land, which is on the border of New South Wales and Victoria, along the Murray River. All creation on that land, the trees, the rivers, the fish, the kangaroos, the emus, the birds, everything and the Creator, Biamme, he created the land and he created the trees, the animals. I come from the spirit of all those things I just mentioned.

What about Aboriginal languages?

Aboriginal Australia is broken up into approximately 420 territories. What that means - there's 420 different Aboriginal people within this land of Australia and within those language groups what you have, you've got dialects, so what we have we've got hundreds upon thousands of different languages here in Australia.

*Sir Douglas Nicholls was Australia's first indigenous state governor. As a young man he also played football for Fitzroy and Victoria and worked as a social worker and pastor in the indigenous community.

Comprehension

Answer these questions about part 1.

1. What's a Koori?

2. Because Aboriginal people may have been in Australia for 100,000 years, what does it make them?

3. What does Jason say about where indigenous Australians come from?

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 Listen and read: part 2.

Can you tell us a little bit about Aboriginal culture?

My people as mentioned before have been on this land for a hundred thousand years. My people know this land inside and out, its plants, its animals, and all the seasons, its weaknesses and its strengths. My culture revolves around the spirit of the land. That's our law, past, present and future.