



Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Ancestor Spirits of Dreamtime



Long, long ago, in the time of the Dreamtime, the land of Australia was flat and empty. There were no mountains, no rivers, and no living creatures. It was a silent world, waiting to be brought to life.

Then, powerful Ancestor Spirits began to stir and emerge from deep within the earth. These beings were immense and magical, taking many forms – some like giant animals, others like human-shaped figures, and one of the most powerful was the Rainbow Serpent. Each spirit carried a unique song and a purpose to shape the world.



The Ancestor Spirits began to travel across the vast, empty land. As they moved, they sang, danced, and carved out the features of the world. Where a spirit dragged its body, rivers flowed. Where it rested, mountains rose. They created the trees, the plants, and all the animals, giving each its place and purpose. Their journeys were long and filled with creation.

As the spirits completed their work, they left behind their essence, transforming into rocks, waterholes, and sacred sites. They also established the laws and customs that people would follow, teaching them how to live in harmony with the land and each other. These laws were sung into the landscape itself.

Even today, the Aboriginal people believe that the Ancestor Spirits are still present in the land, and their songs echo through the landscape. The Dreamtime explains how the



world and all its features came to be, and it teaches the enduring connection between people, their ancestors, and the sacred land they inhabit .



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) **Who are the main characters in this myth, and what was their primary role?**

- (A) The Aboriginal people, who lived in the flat, empty world.
- (B) The Rainbow Serpent and other Ancestor Spirits, who shaped the land and created life.
- (C) The mountains and rivers, which were already present in the Dreamtime.
- (D) The animals, who taught the spirits how to sing and dance.

(2) **In this myth, the Ancestor Spirits traveled across the land, singing and dancing, in order to _____ .**

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) **What does the word "essence" mean as it is used in the story?**

- (A) a physical mark or footprint left behind
- (B) the basic, important nature or spirit of something
- (C) a type of sweet-smelling perfume
- (D) a temporary feeling or emotion

(4) **Why did the Ancestor Spirits travel across the land and create everything? What does this tell us about what was important in the Dreamtime?**



(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?

