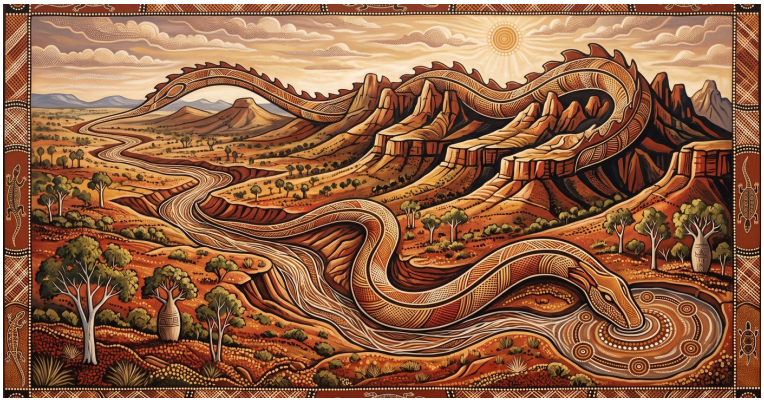
The Rainbow Serpent – How One Body Shaped a Continent

Subjects: English · Geography · Religious Studies | recommended from age 10 (A2/B1) | Video: 8:49 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/72G8-dZGp54

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. How are rivers, valleys and mountains formed? Explain briefly from a geography point of view.

B · While watching

1. How old is Aboriginal culture, and where does the name “Rainbow Serpent” come from?

2. According to the myth, how were rivers, waterholes and mountains formed?

3. What does “Country” mean to Aboriginal people?

4. What happened when careless people disrespected a sacred waterhole?

5. Where does the Rainbow Serpent's law still matter today?

Useful words

serpent	Schlange	sacred	heilig
waterhole	Wasserloch	law	Gesetz
mountain range	Gebirge	to swallow	verschlingen
gorge	Schlucht	rainy season	Regenzeit

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

☐	It gives every being land, language and law.
☐	Days of rain change the landscape once more.
☐	The land lies flat and lifeless; deep below, the serpent sleeps.
☐	The serpent rises and swallows them.
☐	It wakes and pushes up through the rock.
☐	The serpent goes back into the deep and sleeps.
☐	Its tracks become rivers, waterholes and mountains.
☐	Careless people disrespect a sacred waterhole.

D · Think and discuss

1. Why are stories with warnings – for example about disrespecting water – especially important in dry places?

2. Australian water programmes now also use traditional knowledge. What can science and tradition learn from each other?

E · Myth and landscape

Match how the myth explains the landscape and how geography explains it.

	In the myth	In geography
rivers		
waterholes		
mountains and gorges		
rainy season		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a short warning in the style of the Dreaming that tells children why a waterhole must be protected (6–8 sentences).