

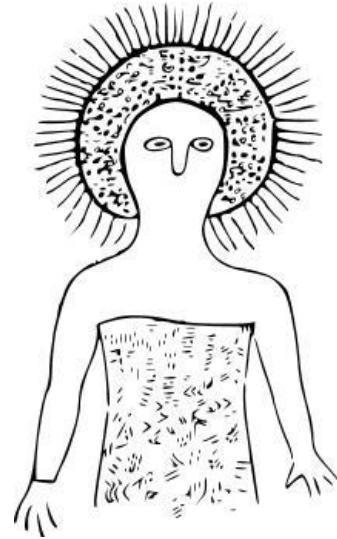
Name _____

Aboriginal Time - Student Worksheet

Aboriginal history starts in the Dreamtime when ancestor spirits lived in the sky.

A story from Melville Island tells how the first man, Purnukapali lit the first torch from a fire given by the ancestor spirits. It was carried during the day by his sister Wurupranala, who later became the sun. Words common to most Aboriginal languages suggests that 24 hours could be broken into:

Pre dawn, daybreak, morning, midday, daytime, late afternoon, just before sunset, sunset, middle of the night and nighttime.



A wanjina or ancestor spirit

Since they did not carry clocks, how did people know when it is daybreak?

How did they know when it is midday? _____

How did they know it was sunset?

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Some groups could mark the passing of time at night by the movement of constellations through the sky.

Why do you think that early Aboriginal people did not need to break the day into smaller fractions such as hours and minutes?

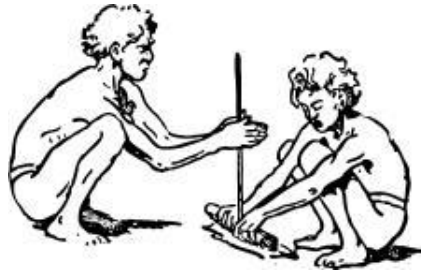
At what time of day would an early Aboriginal person go hunting game?

At what time would an Aboriginal family eat roast kangaroo?

At what time of day would an Aboriginal family next eat roast kangaroo?

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