

Name _____



Oceania's Roots

Directions: Read the informational text about Aboriginal Australians and Māori cultures. Then answer the questions that follow.

Indigenous Cultures of Oceania

Indigenous cultures in Oceania have deep histories that connect people to the land, sea, and their ancestors. Aboriginal Australians are among the oldest continuous cultures in the world. Many Aboriginal groups use oral storytelling to pass down knowledge, including stories about creation, family, and the environment. Their artwork, music, and traditions often reflect a strong spiritual connection to the land, which they see as an important part of identity and responsibility.

Across the Tasman Sea, the Māori people of New Zealand have a rich cultural heritage centered on community, respect, and ancestry. Traditional meeting houses, called **marae**, serve as gathering spaces where families celebrate important events and strengthen bonds. The Māori language, **te reo Māori**, continues to be taught in schools and spoken in many homes as a way to preserve cultural identity. Māori carving, weaving, and the powerful haka performance show how traditions can be passed on with pride from generation to generation.

Although Aboriginal Australians and Māori cultures are distinct, they share a strong commitment to honoring ancestors, protecting their lands, and keeping cultural traditions alive.

1. What do Aboriginal Australians use oral storytelling for?
2. What is a marae and how is it used?
3. Why is te reo Māori important to Māori culture?
4. How do both Aboriginal Australians and Māori show connection to their ancestors?
5. Identify one similarity and one difference between the two cultures as described in the text.