

Between 300,000 and 100,000 years ago, a species of humans known as Neanderthals lived in Eurasia.

Neanderthals were named after the Neander Valley in Germany where their remains were first discovered.

They lived during an ice age and many sheltered in caves and rocky outcrops. This is why they are often referred to as 'cave men'. Despite their primitive existence, scientists believe that Neanderthals were actually quite intelligent.

ICE AGE SETTLEMENT

WOOLLY MAMMOTHS

Woolly mammoths were hunted by Neanderthals. These animals could provide plenty of food and their hides could be used for clothing. Mammoths had a very thick layer of hair, so their coats were used to keep people warm in the cold climate.

Mammoths were similar in size to African elephants. They could measure four metres in height and weigh 6,000 kilograms.

EXTINCTION

Woolly mammoths all but died out approximately 10,000 years ago. A small population, however, of no more than 1,000 woolly mammoths, lived on an island in Russia (Wrangel Island) until 4,300 years ago.

SHELTER

A 44,000-year-old shelter was discovered in 2011. It was built from mammoth bones.

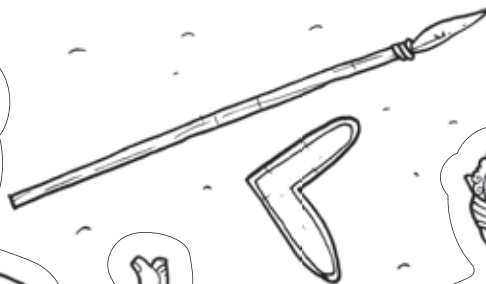
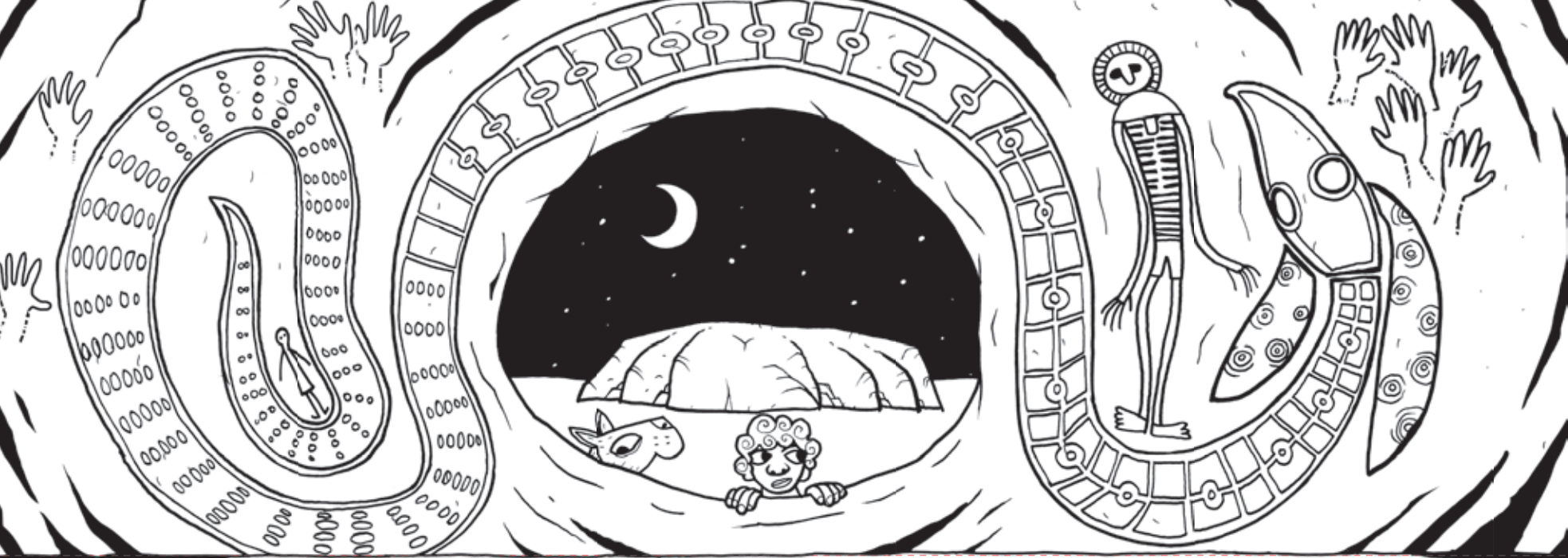
Neanderthals were powerfully built and had bigger brains than us. They made stone tools and used spears made of wood to hunt.

Some scientists believe that Neanderthals formed their own language and were capable of speaking to one another.

FIRE

Neanderthals died out roughly 30,000–40,000 years ago.

Neanderthals domesticated fire and used it to keep warm and to deter predators.



ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT

The Aboriginal people journeyed from areas of Southeast Asia to Australia by walking across land that has long since been submerged by rising sea levels. Evidence suggests that they reached Australian shores in 45,000 BCE (though it may have been several thousand years earlier) and spread across the colossal island, creating settlements along the way.

RAINBOW SERPENT

In Aboriginal lore, the Rainbow Serpent could generate storms, floods and rivers. The snake had life-giving powers and helped create humankind. Some cave paintings of the Rainbow Serpent can be traced as far back as 6,000–8,000 years.

ULURU

Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is the largest monolith (single piece of rock) on Earth. It is considered sacred by the Australian Aboriginals.

DREAMTIME

Dreamtime or the Dreaming is an integral part of Aboriginal spirituality and religious lore. Dreamtime refers to the period in the distant past when the planet's environments and geological formations were fabricated and human life was created.

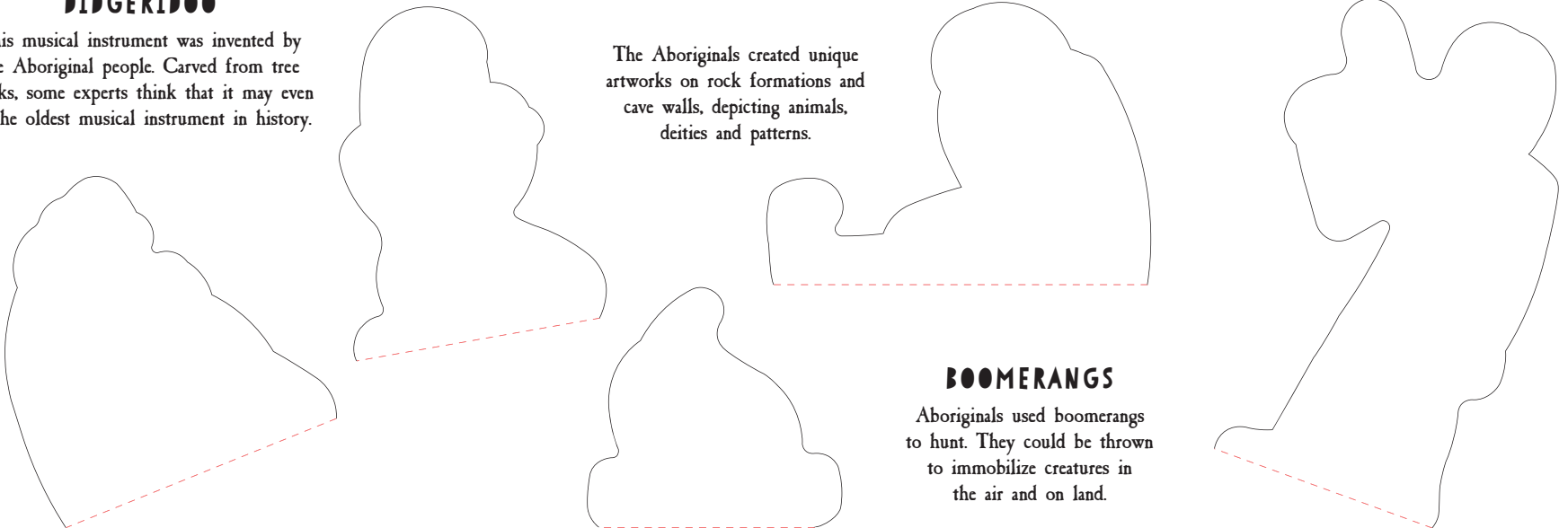
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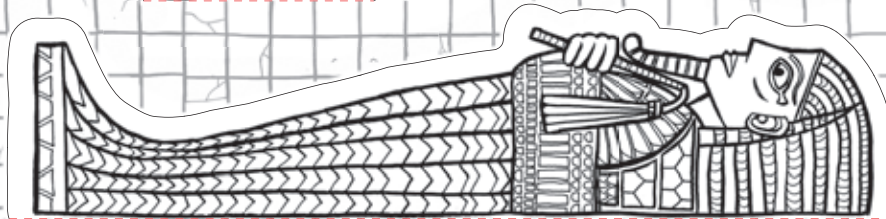
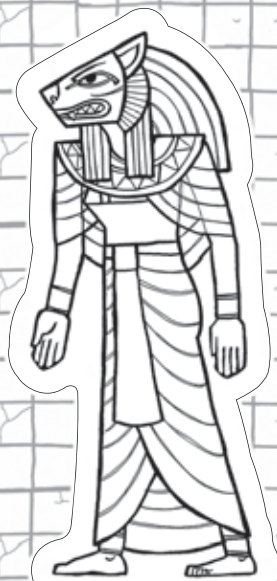
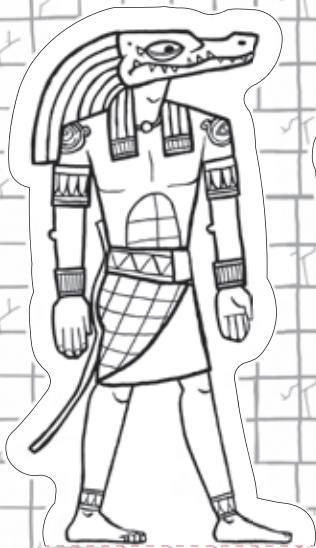
This musical instrument was invented by the Aboriginal people. Carved from tree trunks, some experts think that it may even be the oldest musical instrument in history.

The Aboriginals created unique artworks on rock formations and cave walls, depicting animals, deities and patterns.

BOOMERANGS

Aboriginals used boomerangs to hunt. They could be thrown to immobilize creatures in the air and on land.





ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TOMB

The ancient Egyptians believed in more than 1,500 gods and built impressive tombs and temples to honour them. Each deity had different functions and roles and some were depicted with animal heads to convey their characteristics.

The people believed that life continued after death, so they preserved dead bodies by turning them into mummies. They popped a corpse's lungs, liver, stomach and intestines into canopic jars, dried the body with a special salt called natron, and then wrapped it from head to toe in bandages. This process took up to 70 days to complete. Afterwards, the mummy was placed in a coffin and buried with all sorts of important possessions to take along to the afterlife. Some pharaohs even had their slaves and pets entombed with them.

CANOPIC JARS

TEFNUT

The goddess of rain and moisture

Tefnut was created from the spit of her father, Ra (the sun god).

MA'AT

The goddess of truth, justice, harmony and balance

Ma'at decided whether or not a deceased person would reach the afterlife by weighing their soul.

SOBEK

The god of waterways

Sobek was a protector of Egyptian people. He also enjoyed eating flesh. Live crocodiles were kept in pools at temples to honour him.

SARCOPHAGUS

Pharaohs were buried in ornate coffins known as sarcophagi. The most famous sarcophagus belonged to a pharaoh called Tutankhamun. The Egyptians adorned his casket with more than 110 kilograms of pure gold.