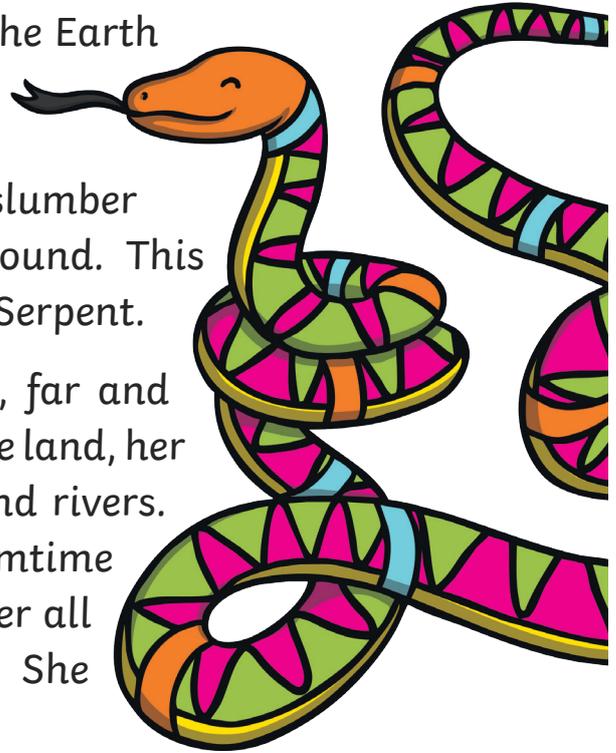


The Rainbow Serpent

The following story is based on a traditional Aboriginal Dreamtime story, involving the Rainbow Serpent.

Long, long ago in the Dreamtime, the Earth lay flat and still. Nothing moved and nothing grew. One day, a beautiful snake awoke from her slumber and came out from under the ground. This snake was known as the Rainbow Serpent.

She travelled for a very long time, far and wide. As she made her way across the land, her body formed mountains, valleys and rivers. The Rainbow Serpent was the Dreamtime creature who shaped the Earth. After all of her travelling, she grew tired. She curled up and went to sleep.



After some rest, she returned to the place that she had first appeared and called out to the frogs, "Come out! The frogs woke up very slowly because they had so much water in their bellies. The Rainbow Serpent tickled their stomachs, and the water began to fill the tracks that the Rainbow Serpent had left. This is how the lakes and rivers were formed.

After this, water, grass and trees began to grow. All the other animals that lived in rocks, on the plains,

in the trees and the air began to wake up and follow the Rainbow Serpent. They were all happy with the Earth.

The Rainbow Serpent made laws that they all had to obey. Some did not like this and began to cause trouble. The Rainbow Serpent said, "Those who obey will be rewarded; I shall give them human form. But, for those who don't, they will be punished and turned to stone."

The tribes of people lived together on the land given to them by the Rainbow Serpent. They knew that the land would always be theirs, as long as they took care of it. They believed that no one should ever take it away from them.

