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| **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures Glossary** |
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| **Aboriginal Peoples** People living in a region at the earliest time. In Australia, ‘Aboriginal’ is an imposed broad term for First Australians and not inclusive of the different Indigenous cultures and identities across Australia. |
| B |
| belief systems A set of principles or tenets which together form the basis of a philosophy, moral code or religion. |
| C |
| colonisation The act of setting up a colony away from one’s place of origin. With humans, it can be seen negatively because it tends to involve an invading culture taking control over an indigenous population. |
| Country A space mapped out that individuals or groups of First Peoples of Australia occupy and regard as their own and having varying degrees of spirituality. It includes lands, waters and sky. |
| Country/Place Spaces mapped out that individuals or groups of First Nations Peoples of Australia occupy and regard as their own and having varying degrees of spirituality. They include lands, waters and sky. |
| cultural expressions Cultural content resulting from the creativity of societies, groups and individuals. They include cultural stories, body, cave and sand paintings, symbols, song, dance, artworks and material culture. |
| culture A body of beliefs, attitudes, values, language/s, skills, knowledge, laws, customs and tools by which communities structure and organise their lives and interactions. |
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| F |
| First Nations A community of people formed based on a common language, history and ethnicity, or similar culture and shared territory, who have a historical continuity with pre-colonial societies on their territory. |
| First Nations Peoples of Australia An umbrella term for Australia’s 2 distinct First Nations Peoples broadly known as Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples; each encompasses a diversity of nations across Australia. |
| First Peoples of Australia The first humans of the Australian continent and the traditional owners who have occupied the Australian continent for more than 60,000 years. |
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| I |
| Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) The rights of First Peoples of Australia to own and control their cultural heritage. It refers to all aspects of cultural heritage, including the tangible (e.g. cultural objects) and intangible (e.g. knowledge). |
| invasion Entrance as if to take possession or overrun. British colonisation was experienced by First Nations Australians as an invasion that denied their occupation of and connection to Country/Place. |
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| K |
| kinship A system used to decide how people relate to each other and their roles, responsibilities and duties. A feature of First Nations Australians' social organisation and family relationships. |
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| N |
| nation/s A community of people formed based on a common language, history, ethnicity or a common culture and, in many cases, a shared territory. |
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| P |
| Place A space mapped out that individuals or groups of Torres Strait Islander Peoples occupy and regard as their own and having varying degrees of spirituality. It includes lands, waters and sky. |
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| T |
| terra nullius A concept in international law meaning ‘a territory belonging to no-one’ or ‘over which no-one claims ownership’. The concept has been used to justify the colonisation of Australia. |
| Torres Strait Islander Peoples First Nations Peoples of the Torres Strait and who have occupied the region for more than 4,000 years. |
| traditional owners The original owners of a particular region based on their traditional and cultural associations with the land and who have ongoing traditional and cultural connections to that Country/Place. |
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