TALK ABOUT TEXTS

This is My Country



Written by Melanie Guile

This is My Country



For Review Only

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this publication contains the names and images of people who have died.

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Contents

The Meaning of Country 3
Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri: Artist of the Central Desert . . 4
Tjigila Nada Rawlins: Artist of the Great Sandy Desert. . . 10
Alick Tipoti: Artist of the Torres Strait 16
Country: the Centre of Indigenous Australian Art 20
Glossary 22
Index 23

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The Meaning of Country

What does ‘country’ mean to you? Maybe a farm, or somewhere outside a city? Maybe a place on a map? Or does ‘country’ mean much more to you than that?

Most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a strong feeling of belonging to the place where their people are from. ‘Country’ means the land, the sea, the sky and all the living things in them. It includes people, knowledge of the land and the laws to follow. Country includes creation stories, too. They tell how the mountains, rivers, plants and animals were made.

Country is at the centre of life and culture. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists show their feelings and ideas about their country in their artworks.

Let’s look at three Indigenous Australian artists. How does their art show what their country means to them?



Lena Nyadbi, an artist from the Kimberley region in Western Australia, has had her work displayed all over the world, including on top of a roof in Paris!

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Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri: Artist of the Central Desert

Name: Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri

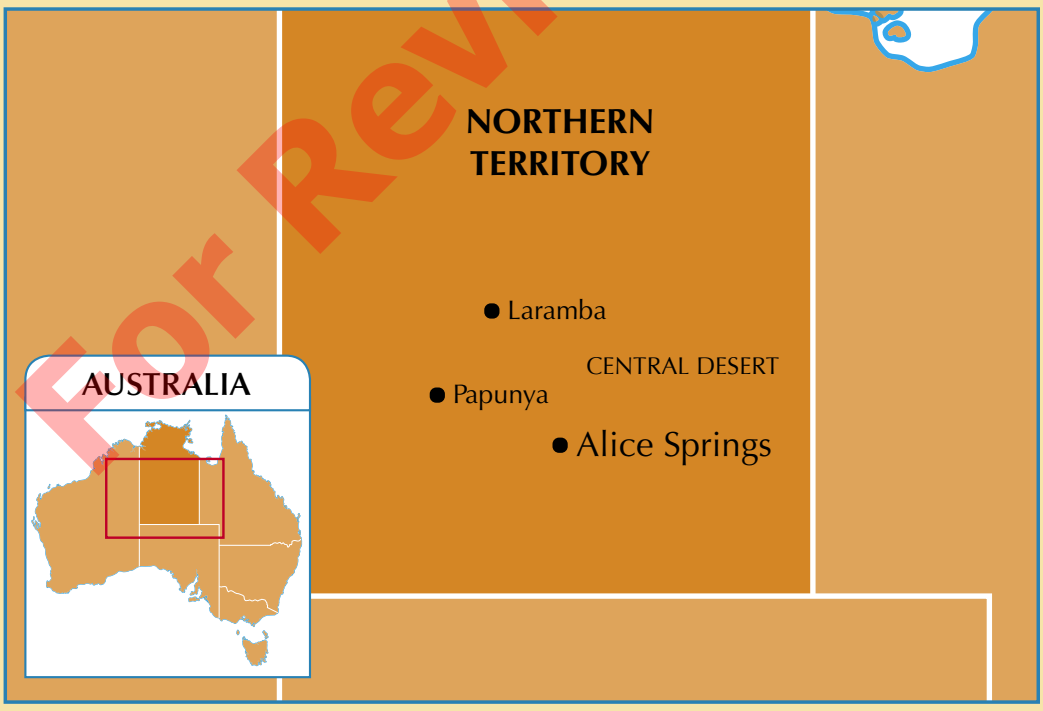
Born: 1932

Died: 21 June 2002

Language group: Anmatyerre people, Central Desert, Northern Territory

Forms of artwork: painting, woodcarving

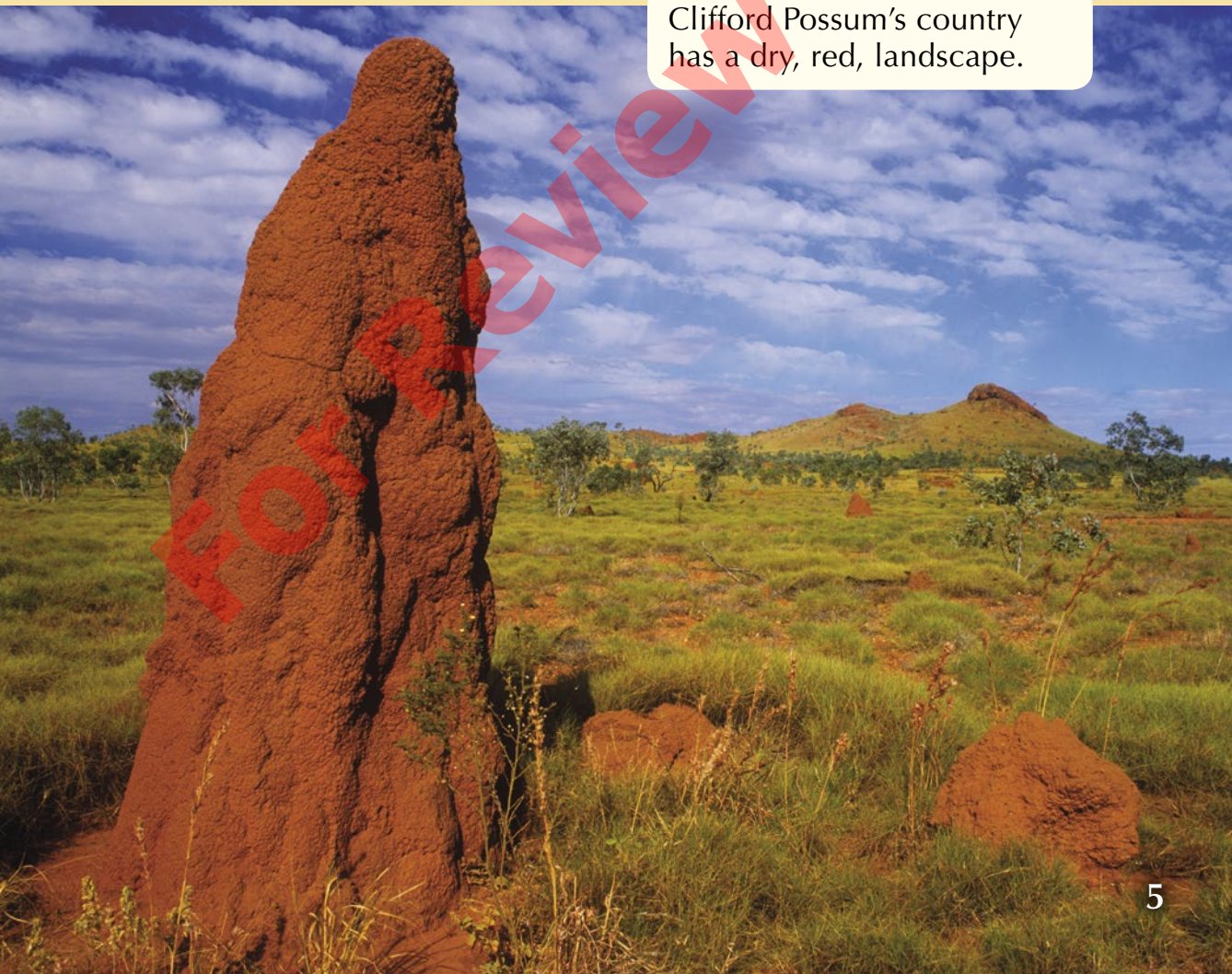




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Clifford Possum's Country

Clifford Possum was born at Napperby Station near Laramba in the Central Desert. It is around 200 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. His Anmatyerre country is mainly desert. There are rocky mountain ranges and sandy river beds running through it. It is very dry country with striking red soil. As a teenager, Clifford Possum worked as a **stockman**. As an adult, he lived at Papunya. Papunya became famous for the art produced by the Aboriginal artists there.



Clifford Possum's country has a dry, red, landscape.

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