TALK ABOUT TEXTS

This is My Country



Written by Melanie Guile

TEACHER'S EDITION

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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Say

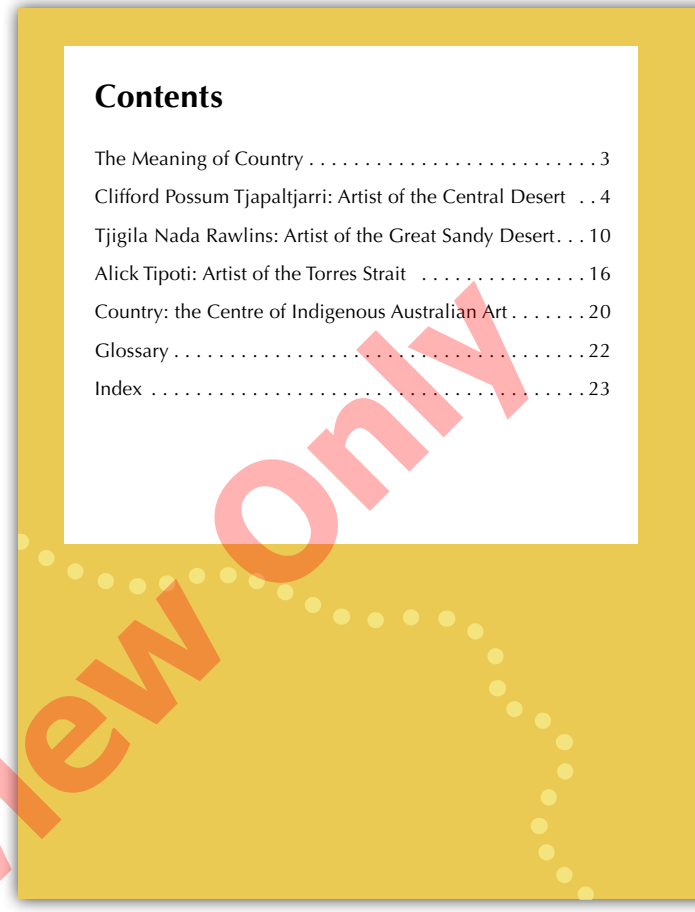
'I will read the contents page and page 3 to you. As I am reading, close your eyes and imagine what "country" is.'

Read

Read the contents page and page 3 to the students. Ask students to close their eyes as they listen.

Check Understanding

- Who will we read about on page 16?
- What does 'country' mean to most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
- How many artists are featured in this book?
- What does the word 'knowledge' mean?
- What does 'creation' mean? What is a creation story?
- What is 'culture'?
- What word could the author have used instead of 'region'?



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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!

3

Talk

Think about what 'country' means to you. What does the word 'country' remind you of?

When I **think** of 'country', it **reminds** me of _____.

What picture did you imagine as I read to you?

The **picture** that I **imagined** was _____.

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Say

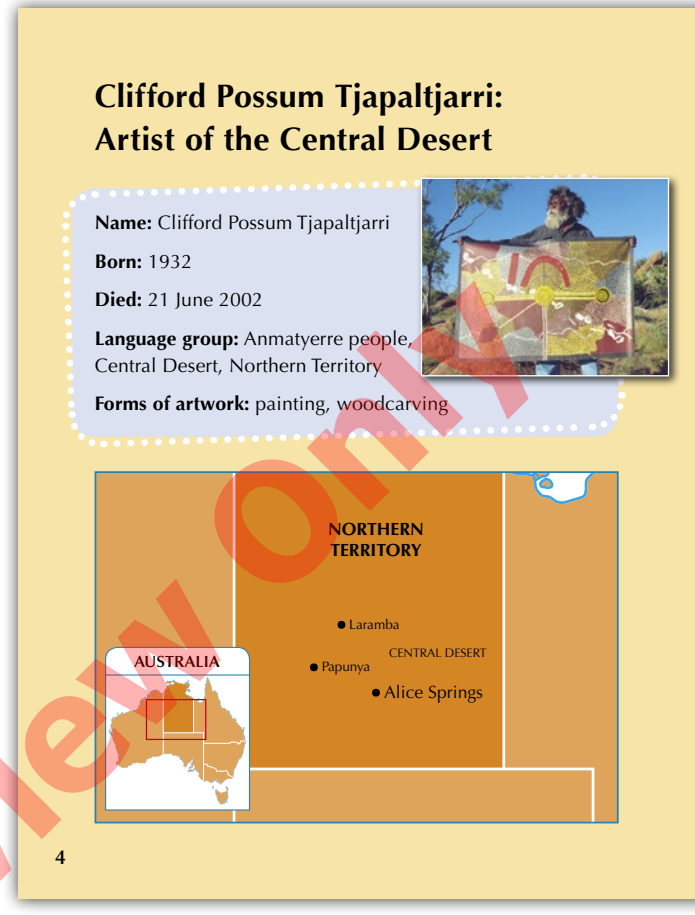
'Let's read pages 4 and 5 together. After we have finished reading, look carefully at the photographs and the map.'

Read

Read pages 4–5 together with the students. Then, look at the photographs and the map.

Check Understanding

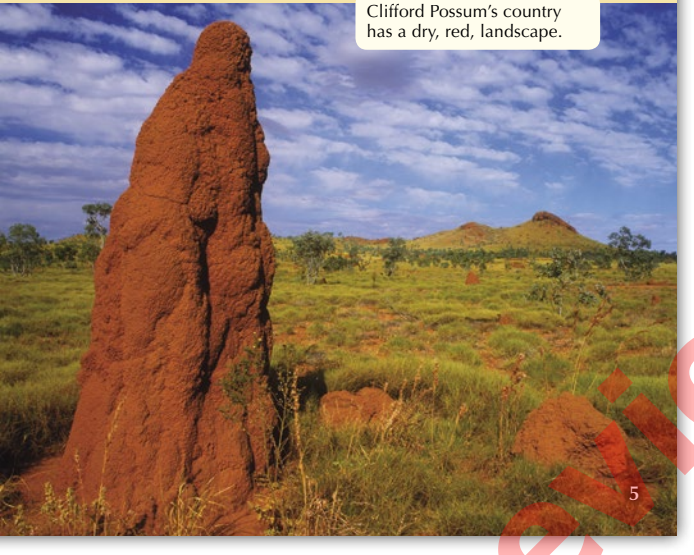
- Where is Clifford Possum's country?
- What forms of artworks did Clifford Possum create?
- Where is Napperby Station?
- What is another word for 'striking'?



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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.

Talk

When you imagine Clifford Possum's country, what do you see?

When I **imagine** Clifford Possum's country, I **see** _____.

When you imagine Clifford Possum's country, which colours do you see?

When I **imagine** Clifford Possum's country, the colours I **see** are _____.

Which words in the text helped you imagine Clifford Possum's country?

The words that helped me **imagine** Clifford Possum's country are _____.

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