

**ABORIGINAL.** The term used for the indigenous population in Australia and surrounding islands before, during and after British colonisation in 1788. **O**ther terms commonly used are 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People', 'First Nations' or 'First Peoples' of Australia and 'First Australians'. **A**rchaeological evidence reveals humans lived in Australia 60,000 years ago ... but other evidence suggests human presence even 120,000 years ago. **A**boriginal population levels have been consistent at ca. 750,000 ... but population collapse from disease, massacres and frontier conflicts followed settlement. **T**he Black Lives Matter movement points at racism, exploitation, cultural ignorance and perpetration of injustices by white Australia toward Aborigines.

ab·o·rig·i·nal

1. *inhabiting a land from the earliest times or from before the arrival of colonists; indigenous*
2. *Aboriginal, Aborigine - a person belonging to one of the indigenous peoples of Australia*

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*In his book Dark Emu Bruce Pascoe puts forward an argument for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer tag for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. The evidence he presents - that Aboriginal people right across the continent were using domesticated plants, sowing, harvesting, irrigating and storing - are behaviors inconsistent with the hunter-gatherer tag, which Pascoe challenges as a convenient lie. Most of the evidence comes from Australian explorers' records, impeccable sources all. (Good Reads)*

*"Bruce Pascoe's groundbreaking Dark Emu was first published in 2014, and has been showing us different ways of seeing the country and its 'truer history' ever since. Writing it, Pascoe says, required a big shift in his own thinking. While researching another book, he kept reading colonial accounts of Aboriginal people farming, irrigating, harvesting, living and prospering in large villages. 'I had disbelief. I'd read the record and kept thinking to myself, surely that can't be right', Pascoe says."*

*"It was a challenge to all the things he'd been taught as a schoolboy. 'The Aboriginal studies press couldn't believe the information. Then I realised the sources I would have to use exclusively would be unimpeachable European sources.' Pascoe immersed himself in those records, such as the diaries of explorers, which were surprisingly full of information about the way Aboriginal people managed their lands. Pascoe quotes the explorer Charles Sturt, who - weak with hunger and thirst in the desert of central Australia in the mid 1840s - climbed a ridge and looked beyond, astonished to find a happy, thriving village of a 'most animated description'." (Lorena Allam, The Guardian, 24 May 2019)*

*"So far from exhibiting any unkind feeling, they treated us with genuine hospitality, and we might certainly have commanded whatever they had. Several of them brought us large troughs of water, and when we had taken a little, held them up for our horses to drink; they likewise offered us some roasted ducks and cake."*

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