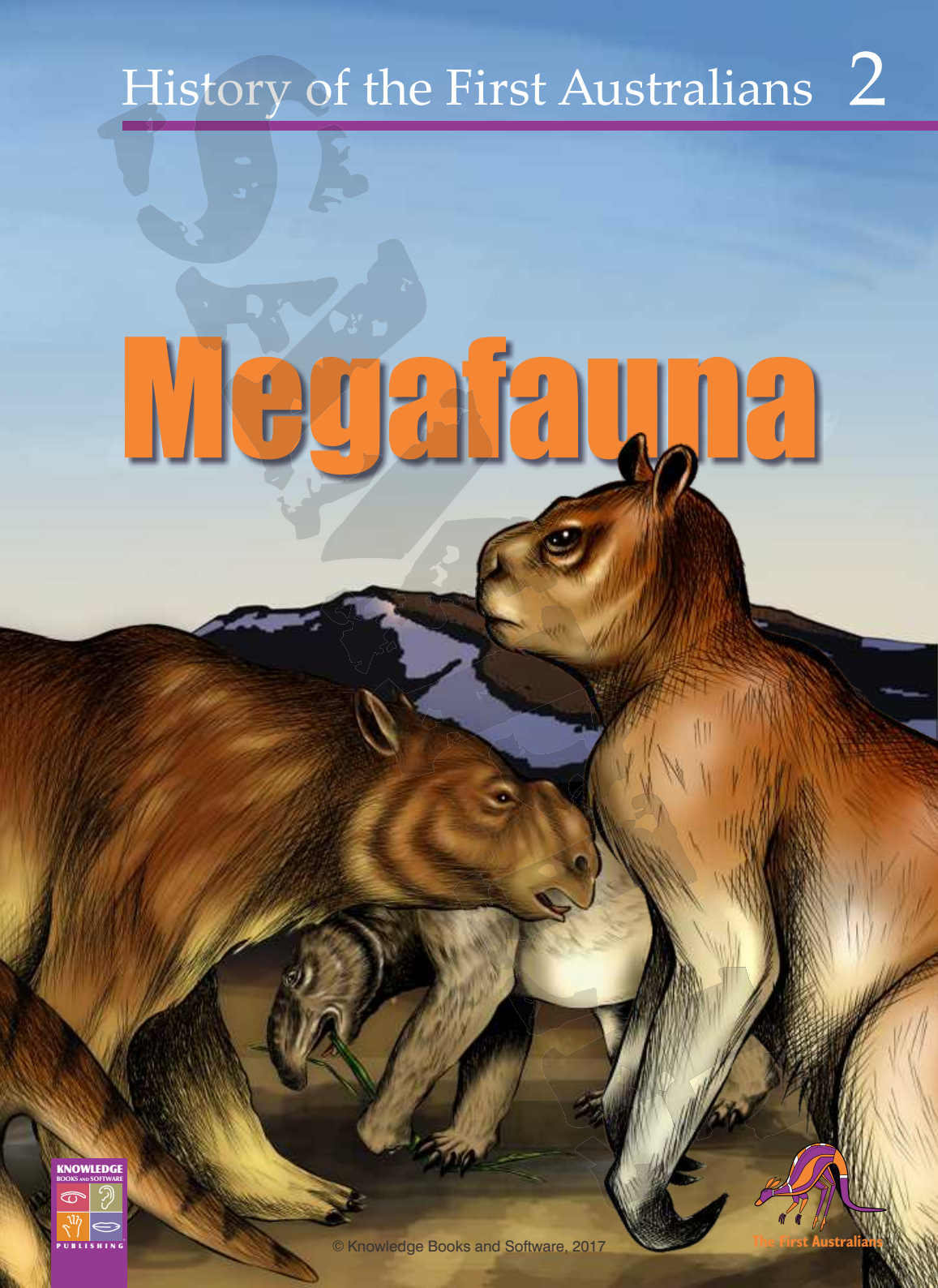
History of the First Australians 2

Megafauna



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The First Australians

Reading Recovery level: 17

Word count: 330

Text type: narrative

Content: non-fiction

ACARA reference: Cross-curriculum priority is given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Histories and Culture. This can be discussed as an integrated unit of work in relation to ancient Australian animals. These peoples had their own languages and cultures. The effects of changing climate on the Megafauna in Australia can be developed in relation to the likely experience of the first peoples. The content can be used for an organising activity OI.9 in that the significant contribution of the First Peoples for the past and the present are acknowledged locally, nationally and internationally. The First People lived amongst the Megafauna.

Teacher notes: The first people of Australia saw many Australian animals which are now extinct. These have been called the Megafauna. These extinct animals were large and occupied the land and sea. The Megafauna names are polysyllables and difficult to read but worth the effort in decoding and using as repeat words. Children love discussing these ancient animals. The many discussion points raised extend from the extinction causes and the climate change from the Ice Age.

Difficult words: megafauna, Australia, animals, exist, drawings, diprotodon, grasslands, genyornis, weighed, palochestes, kangaroo, procoptodon, crocodile, quinkana, giant, megalania, propleopus, dingoes.mountains, volcano, special, spears, shields.

What animals lived in Australia? Some of these animals were very big? Many of these animals no longer exist.

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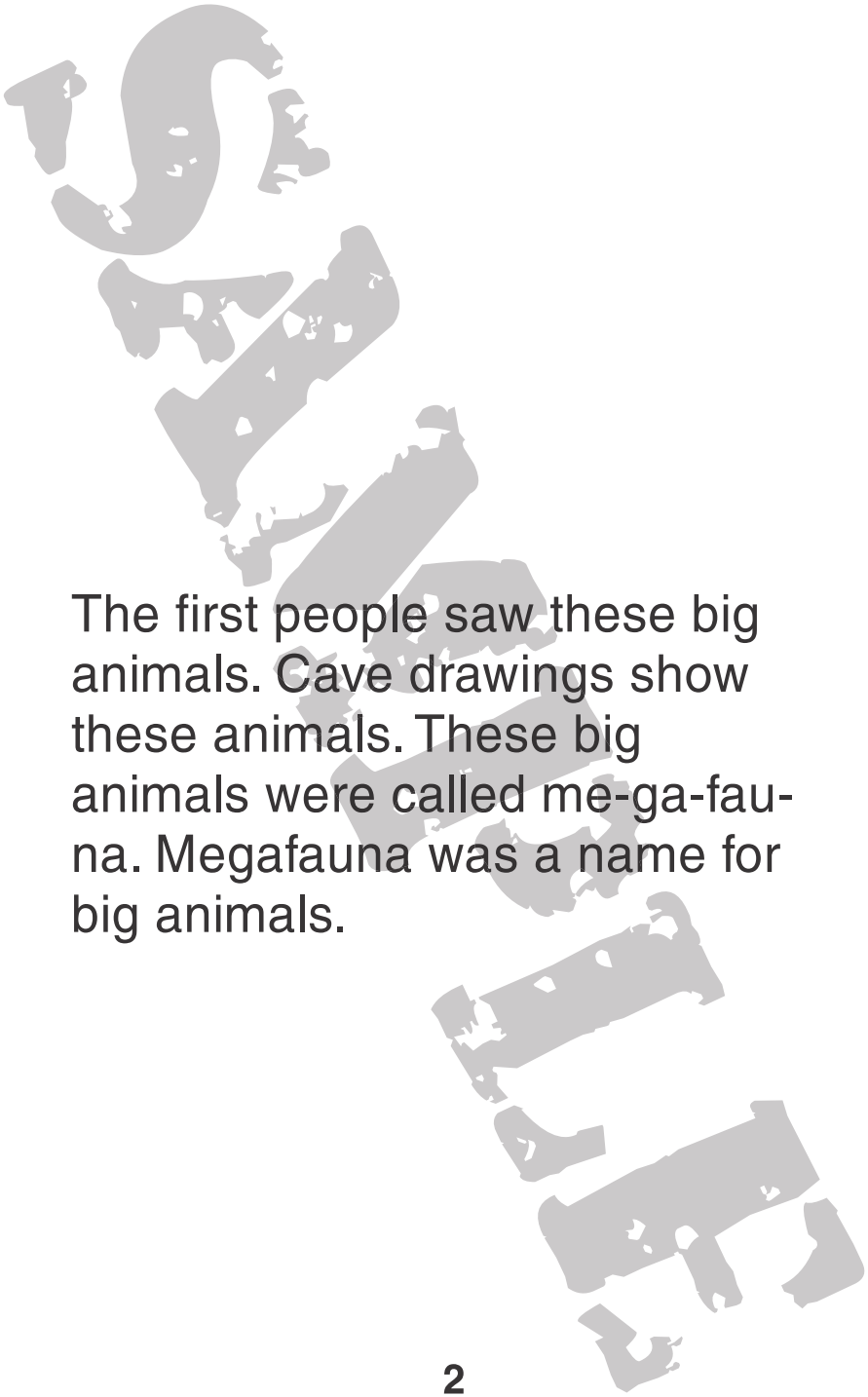

The first people saw these big animals. Cave drawings show these animals. These big animals were called me-ga-fau-na. Megafauna was a name for big animals.

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This large animal in Australia was very big. It was over 500 kilos. It was the size of a hippo. It lived near rivers and swamps. It no longer exists.

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This animal is called a Di-pro-to-don. Diprotodon weighed over 3,000 kilos. It lived on grasslands. It ate leaves, grass and plants. It does not exist today.

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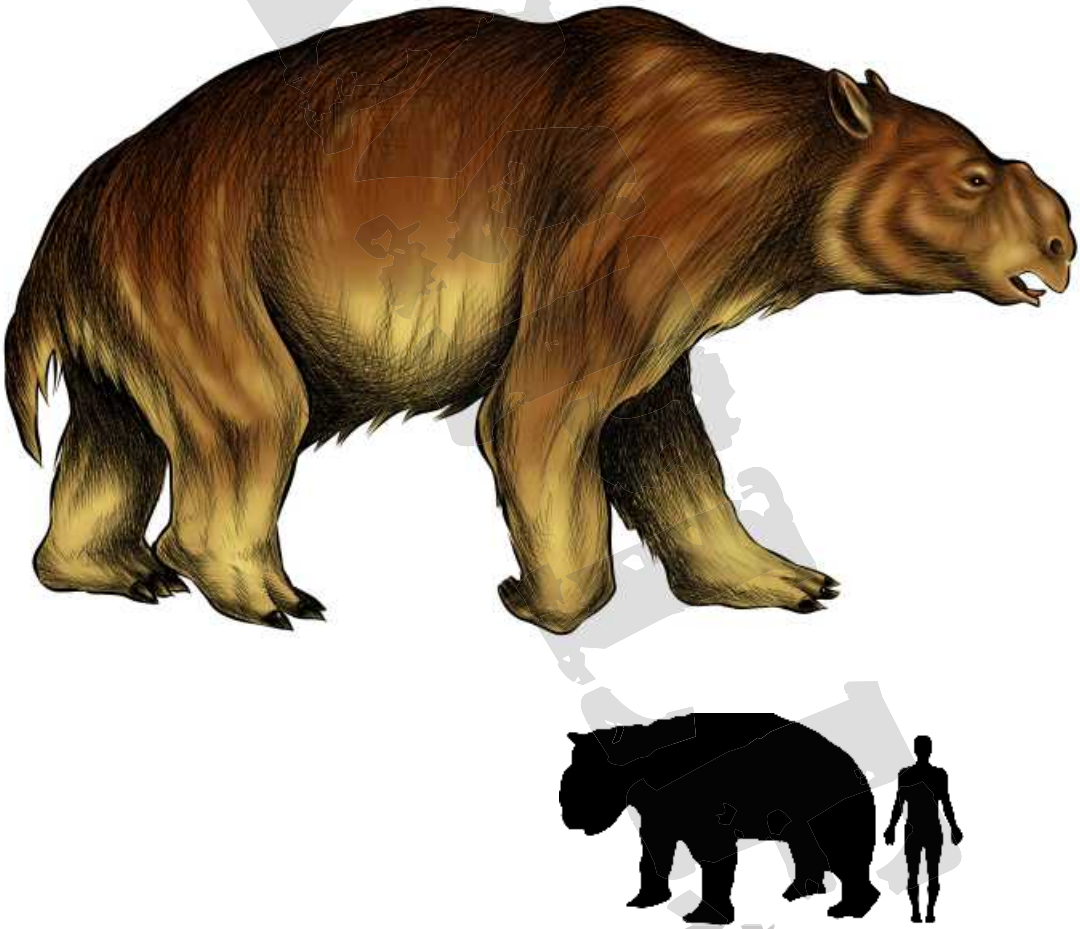

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