

History of the First Australians 77

Mayala

of the Buccaneer Islands

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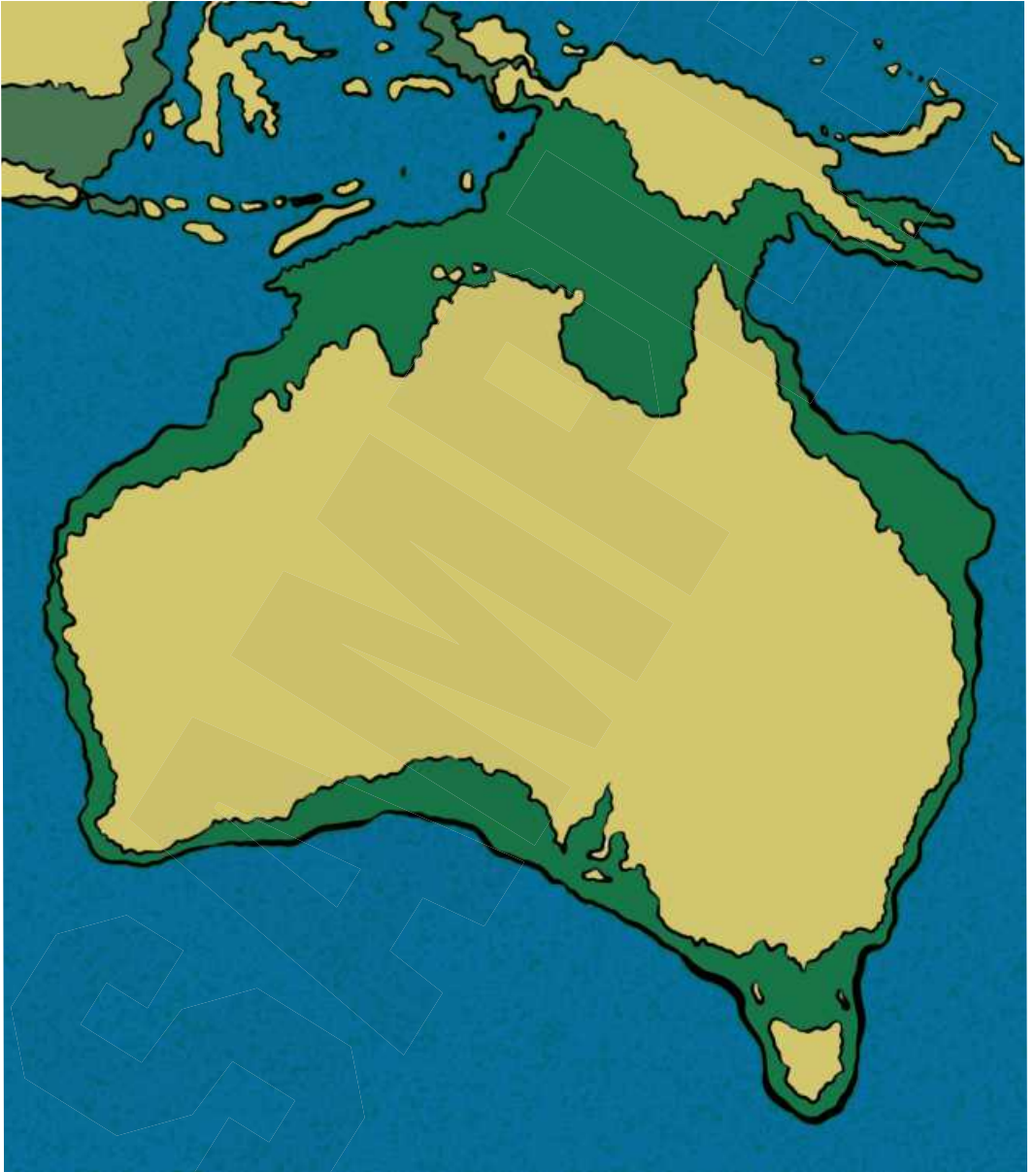


Western Australia has many special places. One of these is the islands off the Kimberleys. These are called the Buccaneer Islands. This area is home to the Mayala people.





A long time ago, the sea was a lot lower. The First Peoples could walk a long way towards Indonesia. Australia was joined to Papua New Guinea. This time was called the Ice Age.





The First Peoples saw many big animals. One looked like a giant wombat. There were giant birds much bigger than emus. Some lizards were as big as crocodiles!





The Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago. The sea level rose over 100 metres. Many places were now underwater. Islands formed when the water flooded the lands.

Mayala of the Buccaneer Islands

The Buccaneer Islands have many grand natural wonders. It is also a special place for the First Peoples. The first human journey from Africa to Asia and to Australia meant that this was one of the first areas settled by humans in Australia. The continuing mystery of the stone circles and many other prehistory relics makes this an area of huge scientific interest.



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