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The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. NEW Discover Murray River War Trail Fantastic houseboat holidays - SA - VIC - NSW Beautiful Murray River Instagram photos #discovermurray Become a Murray River Fan on Facebook Houseboat Holidays Golfing Holidays Wine & Food Murray Bird Book Family Fun Australian's and visitors simply find Murray's natural beauty and hidden charm alluring. There's something incredibly special about the Murray that just connects with you. This truly iconic Australian region has natural wonders and welcoming communities that will ensure your trip is both memorable and special. The Murray Mallee is blessed with diverse and contrasting Australian landscapes, wildlife and locals. You'll experience one of our greatest road journeys as this natural river road winds 2,520 kilometres through five contrasting landscapes of south-eastern Australia. The Murray River begins as a small stream in the Australian Alps. It meanders and carves steep river banks to the Mallee, where it touches the Australian desert and our great outback region. You'll discover unique Aboriginal culture that reveals the story of mankind and ancient fossilised limestone cliffs before it finally enters the Southern Ocean at Goolwa and the Coorong. If you truly love unique experiences or are looking unawid, the Murray offers you every possible opportunity to explore, reconnect and simply relax. Here's your chance to immerse yourself in the soul, spirit and flavour of our greatest river, the Murray. Enjoy sharper detail, more accurate color, lifelike lighting, believable backgrounds, and more with our new model update. 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Our original video podcast covers it allnow ondemand.Watch NowThe lands and waters of the River Murray, or Murrundi, are central to the culture and beliefs of their Traditional Owners, who have occupied, enjoyed, utilised and managed these areas since the Creation.The Ngarrindjeri are the Traditional Owners of the Lower Lakes, Murray Mouth and Coorong and along the River Murray as far north as Mannum. The Ngarrindjeri Nation is made up of 18 Lalkinyeris (tribes).The First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region are the Traditional Owners of the River Murray area from the Victorian border to Morgan.These Aboriginal Nations believe Murrundi is a living body, formed during the Creation, and the Traditional Owners are part of its existence. The freshwater flows through Murrundi are the lifeblood of these Aboriginal Nations.The River Murray Creation StoryCreation stories (cultural and spiritual histories) reveal the significance of the relationship between the country and Aboriginal people, both physically and spiritually.Here is the Creation Story of the River Murray from the Ngarrindjeri Nation Sea Country Plan, which is part of the CLLMM long-term plan.A long, long time ago Ngurunderi our Spiritual Ancestor chased Pondi, the giant Murray Cod, from the junction where the Darling and Murrundi (River Murray) meet. Back then, the River Murray was just a small stream and Pondi had nowhere to go. As Ngurunderi chased him in his bark canoe he went ploughing and crashing through the land and his huge body and tail created the mighty River Murray. When Ngurunderi and his brother-in-law Nepele caught Pondi at the place where the fresh and salt water meet they cut him up into many pieces, which became the fresh and salt water fish for the Ngarrindjeri people. To the last piece Ngurunderi said You keep being a Pondi (Murray Cod).As Ngurunderi travelled throughout our Country, he created landforms, waterways and life. He gave to his people the stories, meanings and laws associated with our lands and waters of his creation. He gave each Lalkalinyeri (clan) our identity to our YarlTuwar-Ruwe (country) and our Ngartjis (animals, birds, fish and plants) who are our friends. Ngurunderi taught us how to hunt and gather our foods from the lands and waters. He taught us, dont be greedy, dont take any more than you need, and share with one another.Important cultural sitesAboriginal people have lived on their traditional lands along the River Murray for many thousands of years and there are many culturally significant heritage sites across the region.Many national parks are rich in Aboriginal heritage such as rock art, graves, middens and canoe trees. These include Coorong National Park, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park and Murray River National Park.Find out more about Aboriginal culture and heritage in South Australias National Parks.When visiting heritage sites, it is important to be respectful and not disturb these important places.Also if you are carrying out works along the river or on traditional lands, its important to consider if they may affect a heritage site and if any actions need to be taken or permits are required.Working togetherIt is crucial that Aboriginal people are involved in environmental management and water planning to ensure that traditional knowledge is incorporated and culturally important sites are respected.The Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (Listen to Ngarrindjeri People Talking) Agreement guides how the South Australian Government and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority work together to ensure the Ngarrindjeri are involved in environmental management across the region.The First Peoples NRM Working Group plays a key role in building and maintaining a positive relationship with the traditional owners in our region.Be inspired by our partnerships and case studies. We're currently performing scheduled maintenance. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience. Please check back later. We're currently performing scheduled maintenance. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience. Please check back later. In 2007, MLDRIN created the Echuca Declaration, a ground-breaking statement that outlined First Nations rights and aspirations in water management. A key part of the Echuca Declaration was a definition of Cultural Flows. Just as environmental flows are needed to sustain the ecological values of rivers, cultural flows are needed to support the cultural traditions and community development needs of First Nations.Aboriginal people have always cared for waterways and used water to sustain our culture and livelihoods. MLDRIN defined Cultural Flows as a way of translating Indigenous peoples water rights, needs and aspirations into the language of modern water management. First Nations have the right to own and manage water on our Country to support self-determination.Today, MLDRIN is working to make sure Cultural Flows are recognised by Australian governments. We have achieved some success: the Murray Darling Basin Plan requires Basin governments to take account of First Nations views about cultural flows. State and Commonwealth governments are beginning to take steps to support First Nations to acquire water that we can own and manage.MLDRIN was a key partner in the delivery of the National Cultural Flows Research Project. This project designed a pathway towards securing a future where Indigenous water allocations are embedded within Australias water planning and management regimes. In June 2018, the findings of this key research project were released. You can learn more about the Project by visiting theNational Cultural Flows Research Project.MLDRIN works with Member Nations to apply the Cultural Flows methodology. This is a platform to document water needs and advance First Nations water aspirations.For more information on the MLDRIN Cultural Flows program, contact the MLDRIN Cultural Flows Project Officer via Charlie.McCormick@mldrln.org.auThe Murray-Darling Basin covers 1,062,025 km2 or approximately one-seventh (13.8%) of the total area of mainland Australia (7,692,024 square kilometres). Source MDBAIt contains over 40% of all Australian farms, which produce wool, cotton, wheat, sheep, cattle, dairy produce, rice, oil-seed, wine, fruit and vegetables for both domestic and overseas markets. As Australia's most important agricultural region, the Basin produces one third of Australia's food supply and supports over a third of Australia's total gross value of agricultural production.Three quarters of Australia's irrigated crops and pastures are grown in the Basin. While agricultural production is vital to our economy, the Murray-Darling Basin is much more than simply a "food basket". It has an important place in the cultural heritage of all Australians and includes many significant natural heritage features.The national capital Canberra, is located in the Basin along with many of Australia's major inland urban centres including Toowoomba, Bendigo, Albury Wodonga, Tamworth, Dubbo, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Queanbeyan and Shepparton. Over 2 million people live in the Basin.The States in the Murray-Darling Basin include, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and the ACT.The Basin's most valuable resource is water. The water in the Murray-Darling river system comes from a very small percentage of the Basin area; mainly along the southern and eastern rim. Almost 86% of the vast "catchment" area contributes very little or no regular run-off to rivers.The rivers have very low gradients over most of their length, which cause them to flow slowly as they meander across the vast inland plains.The Basin has a big variety of climatic conditions and its highly diverse landscapes range from sub-tropical conditions in the far north, cool humid eastern uplands, high alpine country of the Snowy Mountains, the temperate south-east, to the hot and dry semi-arid and arid western plains.The Murray-Darling Basin is home to a large number of different plants and animals. It has at least 35 endangered species of birds, 16 species of endangered mammals and over 35 different native fish species. Unfortunately, 20 species of mammals have already become extinct.Many of the native plants and animals are protected in national parks and other reserves which comprise about 7 percent of the Basin's total area. The Basin has over 30,000 wetlands, some of them listed internationally for their importance to migratory birds who visit the sites and many others within the Basin from other parts of Australia and overseas. Agriculture in the Basin The Murray-Darling Basin is Australias most important agricultural region, accounting for over 39 per cent of Australias gross value in agricultural production. The range in climatic conditions across the Basin means there is a whole range of agricultural commodities produced. The Basin has been termed Australias agricultural heartland, its food basket, but it is much more than that, as its agricultural output makes a major contribution to the National economy. Agriculture provides the raw materials for most of the Basins manufacturing activity, as well as many processing companies beyond the region. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics, about 3.5 per cent (290,000) of Australias workforce is employed in agriculture, with the figure just for the Basin likely to be much higher. Sheep and cattle enterprises dominate Basin agriculture, especially in the western catchments but also across the Southern Basin. Dairying is limited to northeast and north-central Victoria and Southern New South Wales in the Murray Catchment, however small areas do exist in the South Australian Murray River and Condamine catchments. Basin livestock also include pigs, poultry, goats, deer, bees, ostriches, alpacas and horses. Sown pastures provide grazing and hay production. Many consist of introduced plants, such as subterranean clovers, annual medics, serradella, and lucerne and various perennial grasses. The Basins major food crops are cereals barley, oats, cereal rye, buckwheat, triticale, and wheat. Cereals cover 7.8 million hectares or 8.5 percent of the Basins agricultural land. 47 per cent of Australian cereal farms are within the Basin. They account for about 25 per cent of the Basins gross agricultural production value. The Basin is also a major producer of a large number of horticultural crops such a citrus, stone fruits, pome fruits, grapes and vegetables. Nearly all of Australias rice crop is grown in the Murray-Darling Basin across a total of 176,000 hectares, producing 1.6 million tonnes. The crop was valued at \$348.9 million in 2001. About 2,000 farming enterprises grow rice in the Basin. The future expansion of the industry is affected by access to overseas markets and resource constraints, mainly the availability of irrigation water. However, producers, in cooperation with researchers, are looking to increase their production through varieties that give higher yields and require less water. The Basin area under cotton production totals about 490,000 hectares or 93 per cent of the total Australian cotton growing area of 527,000 hectares. The major growing areas are along the Darling and especially its tributaries in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. In the long term, the Basin has the potential to make a major contribution to the expansion of Australias food exports, provided practices are undertaken in a way that is consistent with sustainable land management. However, as shown in 2001 Agricultural Census, the drought conditions which have occurred over the last decade (since about 1995) have affected, to varying degrees, almost all parts of the Basin resulting in reduced output and therefore the incomes of many agricultural enterprises. In managing the Basins natural resources, the MDBIC is consistently aware of the crucial link between profitability and sustainability. It promotes awareness of the need for changes to the management of the land and water resources of the Basin and is coordinating salinity management at a Basin scale; including monitoring the health of the Basin rivers and is also responsible for coordinating distribution of water from the Murray River to New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. More information about agricultural production in the Murray-Darling Basin can be found in the new e-resource section of the MDBIC website: TOP How much water is needed to produce food? CSIRO Land and Water scientists have used precision weighing systems to measure water use by various crops, and the yield from the crops. The following approximate figures were revealed: To produce one kilogram of oven dry wheat grain, it takes 715 - 750 litres of water For 1 kg maize, 540 - 630 litres For 1 kg soybeans, 1650 - 2200 litres For 1 kg paddy rice, 1550 litres For 1 kg beef, 50,000 - 100,000 litres For 1 kg clean wool, 170,000 litres These figures were determined in very controlled conditions. They can vary with the environment and with the methods of water delivery and harvesting used. Although many people react with amazement at these figures, we should be cautious about interpreting them. The numbers don't necessarily imply that some types of food are better than others. They do emphasise the large amount of water that is needed to grow food, and demonstrate that we should be investigating ways to conserve and improve water use efficiency. How is water lost? All plants, whether irrigated or rain fed, transpire water from the leaves to reduce the temperature when exposed to the sun. If crops are irrigated then a lot of water that is taken from a river or dam can be lost through seepage, evaporation and transpiration, before it actually gets to the farm. Recent documentation of the effectiveness of water conveyancing in the Murray-Darling Basin from river to farm gate shows that up to 85% of water can be lost when open earthen channel supplies are used. On the other hand, as little as 5% can be lost when new fully piped systems are used and managed well. Where does our water come from? 97% of the world's water is contained in the oceans as saltwater. The remaining 3% is fresh water made up in the following parts: 2.25% in polar ice caps and glaciers; 0.6% in underground water; and 0.15% in streams, lakes, and the atmosphere. During the hydrologic cycle water undergoes a continual change of state between liquid, solid and gas in four distinct processes. These processes are: evaporation and transpiration precipitation (rain, hail, sleet or snow) infiltration runoff Other great Murray River topics Become a Discover Murray River Facebook fan! The Murray-Darling Basin is the agricultural heartland of Australia covering over 1 million square kilometres. Over 40 distinct First Nations reside within the Basin, making up 3.5% of the Basin population. Despite these Nations' strong continuing links to country and culture, their rights and interests are represented in just 0.2% of the Basin area. Recognising First Nations' rights to use and access water across the Basin is a critical part of redressing past dispossession and ensuring a vibrant future for Aboriginal people. On November 2012, following years of debate, the Murray-Darling Basin Plan was signed into law as the first national plan for the area in Australian history. Clause 10.54 of the Plan provides that a Water Resource Plan must be prepared having regard to the views of Indigenous people regarding cultural flows. Then Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Planning and Communities, the Honourable Tony Burke said: "The full board of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the chair are very passionate about wanting to make sure that cultural flows are part of how environmental water is used and managedthe first step - the most important step is to fund the work so that the identification of the principles of cultural flows can be locked down". This is significant for the National Cultural Flows Research Project as the Basin plan formally recognises the need for research in order to bring about meaningful outcomes for First Nations. We aim to achieve a healthy working Basin for the benefit of all Australians. Environmental water releases and rainfall are helping to transform the health of Basin explore the latest report cards. Healthy rivers keep us fed, provide recreational activities, and promote vibrant rural communities and businesses. 2.4 million people in the Basin and more than a million in Adelaide rely on the Basin for safe drinking water. First Nations people in the Basin have a strong spiritual connection to water and a moral obligation to care for it. We offer exciting career opportunities at the forefront of water resource management. Our principal aim is to manage the Basin's water resources in the national interest, freshwater for drinking and agriculture the continuation of Culture for First Nations peoples supporting economic activities like fishing and tourism promoting mental and physical wellbeing through recreation. The Basin supports 8,400 irrigated agriculture businesses. Farmers need water to produce the crops that feed Australians and help our economy. Agriculture in the Basin contributes to \$30 billion to Australias economy. Swimming, fishing, boating and other recreational water activities are only possible in clean, safe water. First Nations peoples connection to Country relies on water to maintain traditional practices. The plants and animals that live in the Basins unique ecosystems depend on water to survive. The Murray-Darling Basin crosses four states and one territory, spanning 77,000 kilometres of rivers, many of which are connected. The Murray-Darling Basin is home to 2.4 million people. Last updated: 30 May 2025 Nestled within the vast Australian outback, the Darling River flows as a silent witness to millennia of human history and cultural evolution. Its a major tributary of the Murray River, originating in Queensland and flowing through New South Wales. Beyond its physical beauty, the Darling River holds deep significance as a cultural icon, serving as a spiritual, social, and economic lifeline for Indigenous communities and playing a pivotal role in shaping the identity of the regions it traverses. In this comprehensive exploration, we delve into the multifaceted ways in which the Darling River is culturally important, from its sacred significance to Indigenous peoples to its role as a source of inspiration for artists, writers, and musicians.I. Spiritual Significance: The River as a Sacred EntityFor Indigenous peoples, the Darling River is more than just a body of water; it is a living, breathing entity imbued with spiritual significance and cultural meaning. Known as Barka in the language of the Barkindji people, the river holds a central place in Dreaming stories and creation myths, serving as a link between the physical and spiritual worlds. Rituals, ceremonies, and cultural practices are conducted along its banks, honoring the river as a source of life, renewal, and connection to the land.II. Cultural Heritage: Preserving Traditional Knowledge and PracticesThe Darling River Basin is home to a rich tapestry of Indigenous cultures and traditions, each with its unique customs, languages, and ways of life. For thousands of years, Indigenous communities have lived in harmony with the land and waterways, passing down traditional knowledge and practices from generation to generation. Today, efforts to preserve and revitalize Indigenous culture and heritage along the Darling are ongoing, with initiatives focusing on language revival, cultural education, and land management.III. Historical Legacy: Exploring the Rivers Role in European SettlementThe Darling River played a crucial role in the early European exploration and settlement of inland Australia, serving as a vital transportation route and source of water for pastoralists and settlers. Towns and settlements grew along its banks, fueled by trade, agriculture, and industry. Despite the challenges and conflicts that arose between Indigenous and European communities, the Darling became a symbol of resilience and adaptation, as different cultures and ways of life converged along its shores.IV. Economic Importance: Supporting Livelihoods and IndustriesThroughout its history, the Darling River has been a lifeline for communities and industries dependent on its waters for survival. Agriculture, fishing, and tourism are among the key industries supported by the river, providing livelihoods and economic opportunities for residents of the region. However, environmental challenges such as drought, pollution, and over-extraction of water have placed strain on the river and its ecosystems, highlighting the need for sustainable management and conservation efforts.V. Cultural Expression: Inspiring Art, Literature, and MusicThe beauty and majesty of the Darling River have long inspired artists, writers, and musicians to create works that capture its essence and significance. From iconic paintings and photographs to poems and songs, the river has been depicted in various forms of cultural expression, serving as a muse for creativity and storytelling. These artistic interpretations not only celebrate the natural beauty of the river but also reflect the cultural and spiritual connections that people have to this iconic waterway.VI. Community Engagement: Fostering Connection and IdentityIn addition to its spiritual, historical, and economic importance, the Darling River plays a crucial role in fostering community engagement and connection. Festivals, events, and cultural celebrations held along its banks bring people together to share stories, traditions, and experiences, strengthening bonds and fostering a sense of identity and belonging. As a cultural hub and gathering place, the Darling continues to shape the social fabric of the communities it serves.Conclusion:In unraveling the cultural tapestry of the Darling River, we gain a deeper appreciation for its significance as more than just a body of water, but as a living, breathing symbol of cultural identity and heritage. From its spiritual importance to Indigenous peoples to its role in shaping the identity of communities along its banks, the Darling serves as a testament to the enduring connection between people and place. As we reflect on the cultural importance of the Darling, may we continue to honor and preserve its legacy for generations to come.Know More about the Darling River:What are The Religious Places of the Darling River?When Did The Darling River Basin Become a Focus?Where is The Darling River Located?Who Were The Key Historical Figures and Civilizations of The Darling River?How to Reach Darling River? Aboriginal people have a long history of being connected to the Basin region. Traditional cultural beliefs and values are strongly linked with nature and natural resources, of which the Basin has plenty! The Basin region is home to more than 50 Aboriginal nations and many of these communities maintain their traditional links to the rivers and land. The Murray Darling Basin Authority (the people who make all the decisions about who gets to use what in the Basin) are committed to consulting with the Aboriginal communities to make sure that all plans for the Basin are respectful of the relationship that Aboriginal people have with the land. Aboriginal people depicted having a dance ceremony in the Murray region. As well as having a strong connection to the land and nature itself, the Basin area is home to many Aboriginal culturally significant sites. Some of these sites include:The oldest burial, Willandra LakesFish traps, BrewarrinaKenniff CaveKow SwampLake Victorialook one of these up to see if you can try find out more information! In your workbook answer the following questions:Where is the site? Why is the site culturally significant?Try to find a picture of the site, or a map showing its locationAs mentioned earlier, the Basin region is home to more than 50 different Aboriginal nations! Look up 5 different nations from this region, and see if you can work out what language they speak!A map showing just a few of the many different languages used by various Aboriginal nations within the Murray regionWatch the Aboriginal dream time video on how the Murray River was made. In your own words, retell the story of how the Aboriginals believe the river came to be - complete this in your work book! www.abc.net.au/btn/topic/riverkids.htmWatch the video clip on River Kids and complete the following sentences:It was interesting to learn about...It's in my interest to care for the Murray River because...The flowing rivers in the Murray Darling keep the spirit and identity of Aboriginal people of the Basin alive. Aboriginal people not only view water as connected to the land, but they also view themselves as a key part of the river system. This connection gives Aboriginal people a strong sense of responsibility for the health of the rivers. The rivers and floodplains are of particular importance to the traditional cultural beliefs and practices. The term cultural flows is a new term used when taking Traditional Owners into account when discussing water planning and management.The definition of cultural flows is:water entitlements (meaning rights) that are legally and beneficially owned by the Indigenous Nations and are of a sufficient and adequate quantity and quality to improve the spiritual, cultural, environmental, social and economic conditions of those Indigenous Nations. This is our inherent right.Have a think: Do you think it is important to recognise the Aboriginal natives and traditional land owners when making plans about the Basin? Justify Why/Why Not?

Murray culture. Cultural significance of the murray river. Why is the murray darling basin important. Murray-darling basin. Cultural value of the murray darling basin.