Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

Date: _____

AGES 12 TO 16 · HISTORY

One Story, Not a Stack of Books

We often hear that Aboriginal Australian cultures are the oldest living continuous cultures on Earth. But let's have a proper look at what that actually means, because it's a bit of a "brain bender" for some.

People sometimes reckon, "If we all started in Africa, wouldn't they have the oldest culture?" While it's true that the human journey began there, most of the world's history is a story of interruption. If you dig a hole in Europe, the Middle East, and even Africa, the archaeological layers look like a mismatched stack of books.

- You might find a layer of Celtic remains, but then the Romans move in and overwrite it. Then the Germanic tribes sweep through, followed by the Vikings or the Normans.
- Each layer shows a new group of people with different languages, different religions, and different ways of living, often completely replacing the mob that was there before them. The "chain" of culture gets snapped and restarted over and over again.

When we look at our own sites here on Yugambeh Country, the story is totally different. When archaeologists look at the record, they don't see "replacements." They see the same people in the same place for tens of thousands of years.

Through ice ages, rising sea levels, and massive environmental shifts, our ancestors didn't pack up and disappear. They adapted.

- Instead of a stack of different books, our history is one single, epic story. The tools changed and the tech evolved, but the bloodlines, the Songlines, and the spiritual connection to this specific patch of dirt remained constant.

This isn't just a "neat fact." It's proof of a level of social resilience and sustainability that the rest of the world is only just starting to wrap their heads around. To keep a culture "continuous" for over 60,000 years takes more than just luck—it takes a sophisticated understanding of Law, Land, and Community.

When we talk about "Oldest Continuous Culture," we're talking about a record of survival that is unmatched anywhere else on the planet.

Always was, always will be.

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ONE STORY

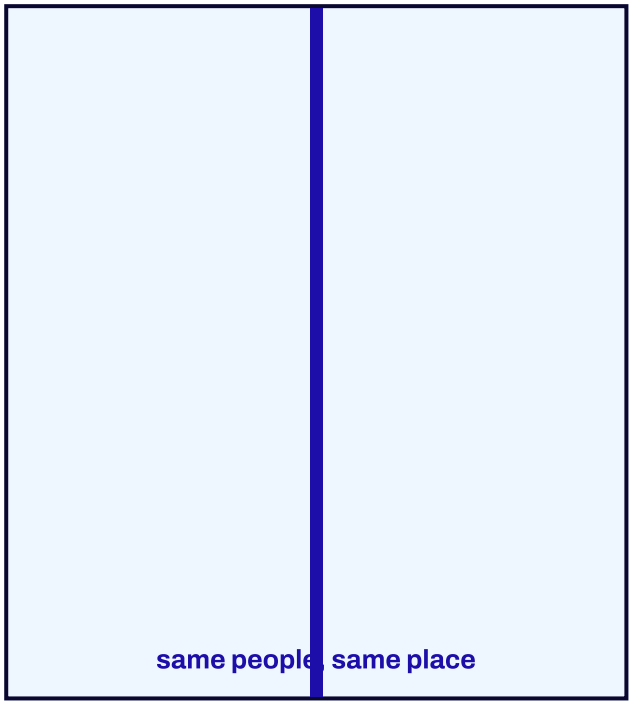
Two kinds of history

Europe

Modern
Vikings or Normans
Germanic tribes
Romans
Celtic
Stone Age

A “mismatched stack of books”: each layer replaces the one before.

Yugambeh Country



“One single, epic story”: tools change, but the people and their connection to Country continue.

Questions

1. What does the Reading mean when it says most of the world’s history is “a story of interruption”?

2. Through which changes did Yugambeh ancestors adapt instead of disappearing?

3. What changed over time on Yugambeh Country, and what stayed constant?

4. Why does the Reading say keeping a culture continuous for over 60,000 years takes “more than just luck”?