

A difficult past For almost 50,000 years Aboriginal Australians have lived in this huge country. a dot painting Problems today Today there are about 670,000 Indigenous Australians in Australia –less than 3% of the total population (23.6 million). The Europeans took the lands of the Aboriginal Australians to farm and to build towns– mostly on the coast. Another problem was that the Europeans brought diseases to the continent and many Indigenous Australians died. That means Aboriginal Australians tell their stories in dances and in paintings– 'dot paintings'. Some Indigenous Australians have taken on the modern Australian way of life, but many haven't. a didger the emu But if you look at a painting long enough, you might see the stones, plants, trees, tracks and animals of the outback. They lived a simple life and they were mostly nomadic – they moved around a lot, gathered food and hunted wild animals. Many young Indigenous Australians leave school early, are unemployed, or have problems with alcohol.