

Star stories - Reading

1. Use the words in the box to complete the text.

Aborigines	birds	constellation	dark constellations	disappear	eat
father	light pollution	mountains	snake	South America	

At night, people around the world look up at the sky and see patterns in the stars. A long time ago, when people did not live in big cities with a lot of **light pollution**, the stars were very important for teaching us about our planet. We used the patterns we saw to travel by land and sea.

A group of stars make a pattern called a _____. People saw many different objects in the constellations, for example, animals like fish, _____, lions, dogs and bears. The animals move in the sky because the Earth is always turning.

The Milky Way looks white in the night sky because we can see many stars in it. Because it is white, the _____ of Australia and the Incas of _____ looked at the dark spaces to find the patterns. These patterns are called _____. In Australia, Aborigines show their children the Emu in the Sky. In March, April and May, the emu is lying down with two eggs next to her. She is the mother, and this is the when the eggs are good to _____. People take the eggs, but they leave some for the emus.

In June and July, the emu is looking down. The emu is now the father, and the eggs are going to hatch. Now people start to leave the eggs because the babies are growing inside them. Because of the Emu in the Sky, the people know when to take the emu eggs and when to leave them. Children also learn that the _____ is the one who looks after the babies.

The Incas saw a big _____ in the dark part of the Milky Way. In August the head of the snake appears. In November and December, the whole snake is in the sky. This is also when the snakes come out from the Andes _____. In February the snake in the sky starts to _____. The snakes on Earth go back to the mountains at the same time that the big snake in the sky disappears.