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Words that are printed in bold are explained in the Glossary on page 31.

What Is Heritage?

Our heritage is things we have kept from the past. Heritage can be things that you can see and touch or the way we do things.

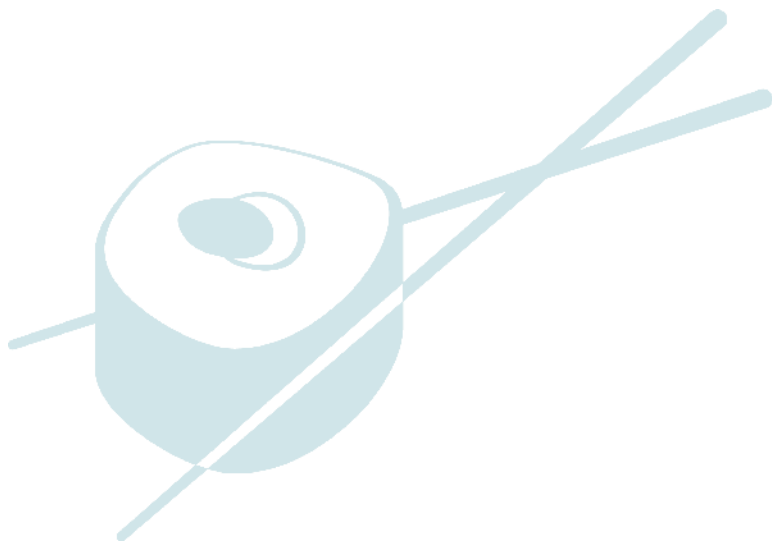
So heritage can be a painting, a building or an island. It can also be the songs your family sings or the food your family cooks.

Heritage is important because it tells us about our past. It might remind us of a special person or event. Our heritage can include things found in nature and things made by people. These are special things that we would like to keep and give to our children in the future.

Heritage can be the way your family cooks food.



Sample pages



Natural Heritage

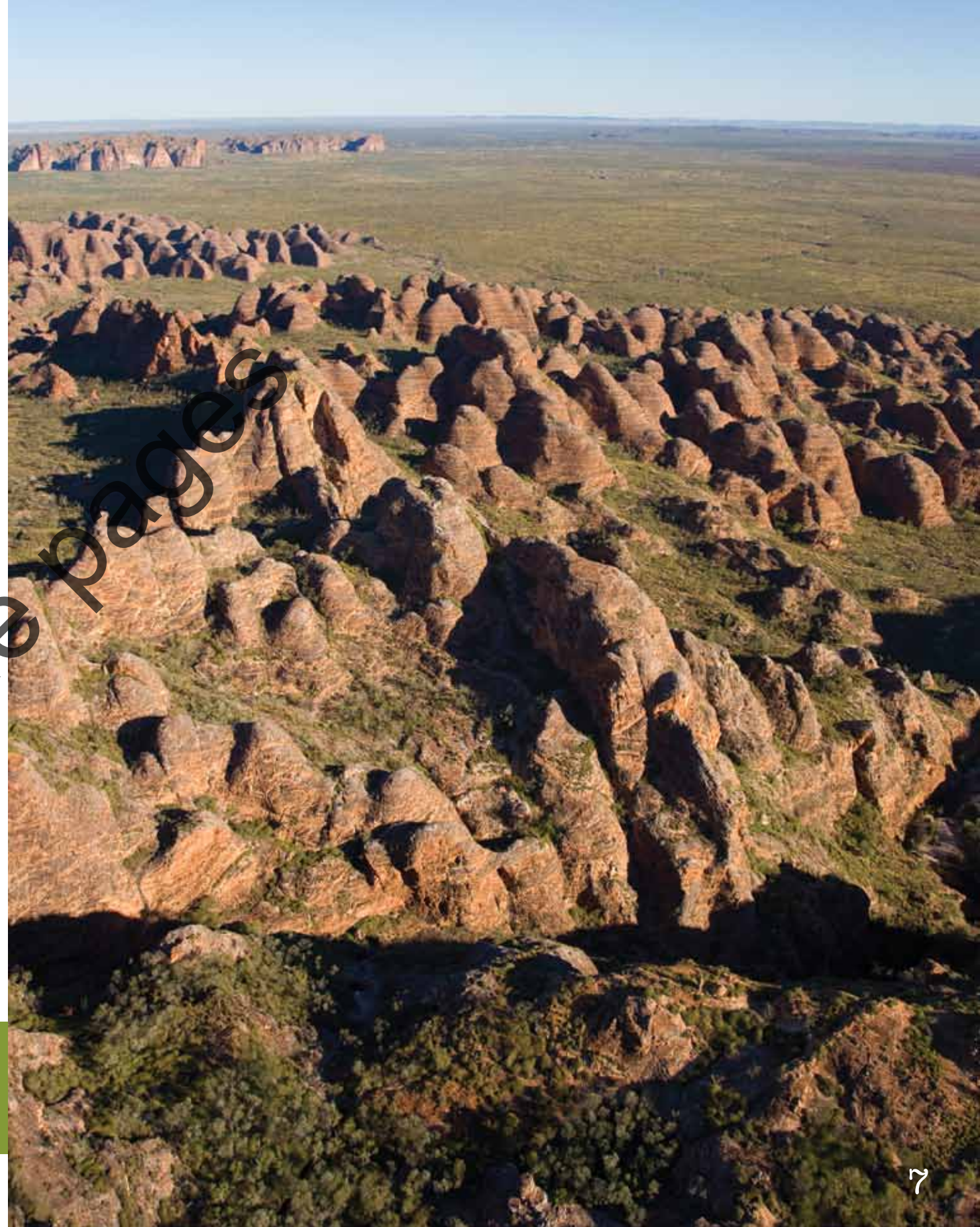
Our natural heritage is made up of places and things that are found in nature. This can include a special rock **formation**, an animal **habitat**, or a beautiful island.

Sometimes, natural heritage areas are places that are important for scientists to study, such as **fossil** beds.

Some natural heritage areas are very big and have been made into national parks. Other areas are small but are still important habitats for **native** plants and animals. Some natural heritage areas are also special to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They might be meeting places or **sacred** sites.



Purnululu National Park in Western Australia is a natural heritage site.

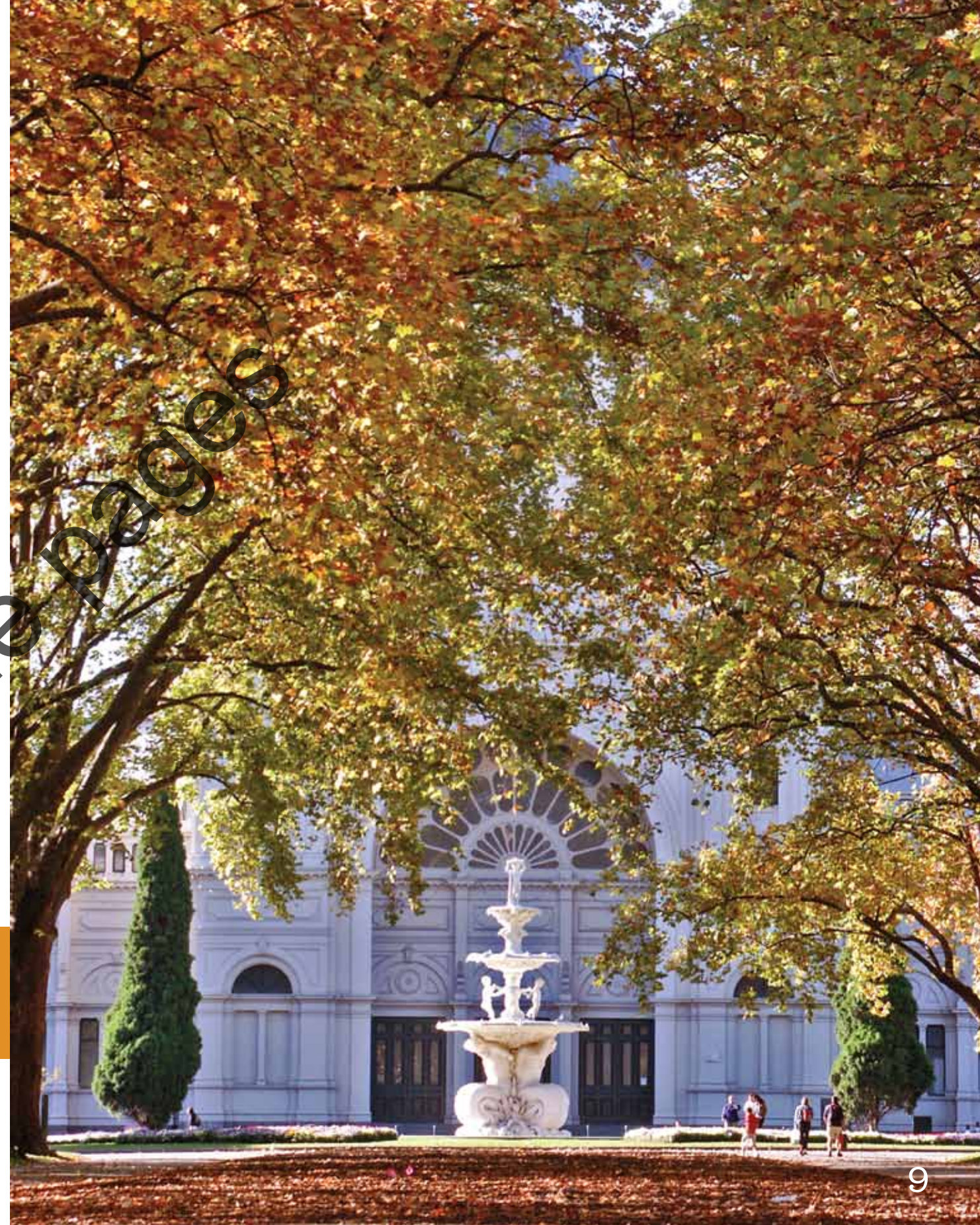


Cultural Heritage

Our cultural heritage includes things that people have made and things that people do. The things that people have made can be large, like a house. They can be small, like a very old toy. All these things can tell us about how people lived in the past.

Sometimes, people do things in a certain way. This can include the way people eat and what they eat, and the way they dress. If a group of people has a special way of doing something, it is called a **tradition** or a **custom**. Traditions and customs tell us how things were done in the past. They are our cultural heritage.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens in Victoria are a cultural heritage site.



Australian Fossil Mammal Sites

What?	places where many fossils are found
Where?	Naracoorte, SA; Riversleigh, Qld
Why?	tell us the story of prehistoric life in Australia

Hundreds of **species** of prehistoric animals have been found at the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites.

A lot of animals used to live in the caves at Naracoorte in South Australia. Many others were trapped in the caves and died. Now the fossils of these **ancient** animals are being dug out of the caves. Some of the fossils are 500 000 years old.

This is the Victoria Fossil Cave, at Naracoorte, SA. Here you can see skeletons of prehistoric animals.

