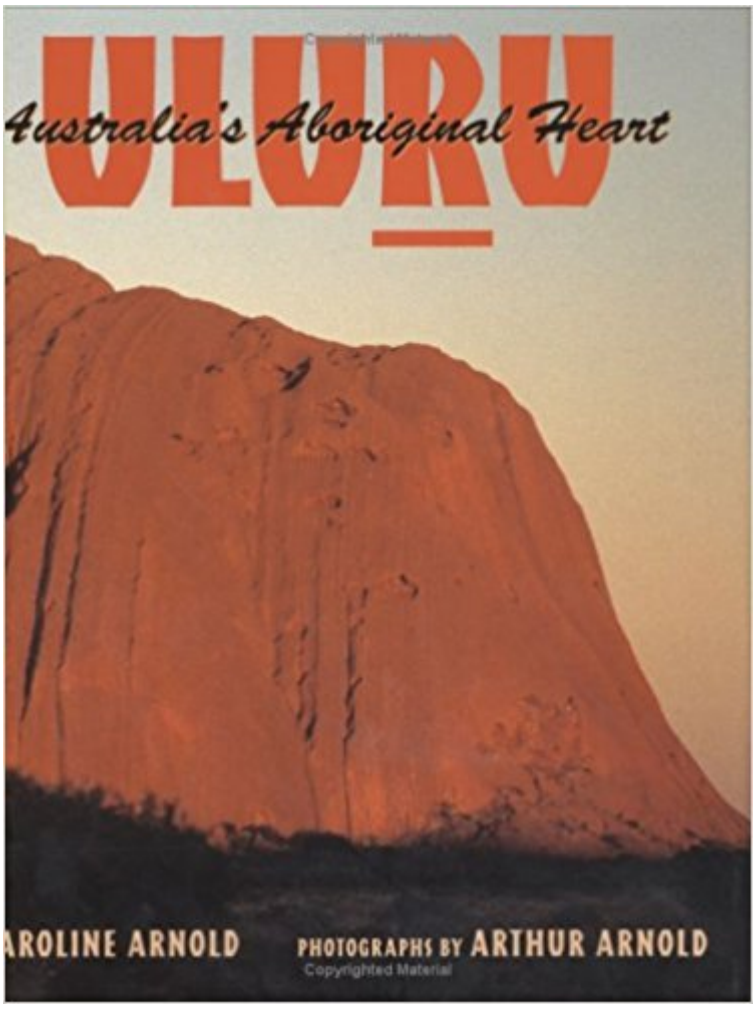
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Uluru: Australia's Aboriginal Heart



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Synopsis

In the middle of the Australian continent, a huge sandstone rock rises more than a thousand feet from the flat desert floor. Formerly known as Ayers Rock, this imposing landmark is now called Uluru, the name given to it by the Anangu, the Aboriginal people who live on the land around it. A site of ongoing geological processes and exceptional beauty, it is unlike any other place in the world. In her signature concise and accessible style, award-winning author Caroline Arnold discusses UluruÃ¢â ¬â„¢s role as a sacred site for the Anangu and how the plants and animals that are part of its natural environment are an integral part of their traditional way of life. She describes the geologic processes that formed the rockÃ¢â ¬â„¢s distinctive shape and red color, the land and climate of the central Australian desert, and how wildlife has adapted to the extreme conditions. Arthur ArnoldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dramatic full-color photographs highlight the unique features and rich colors of the landscape. The area is protected as a United Nations World Heritage Site. In recognition of the rockÃ¢â ¬â„¢s significance to the Aboriginal culture, the Australian government has created the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, which is visited each year by thousands of people from all over the world. Glossary, pronunciation guide, index.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years
Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-This colorful guide provides a glimpse of Aboriginal heritage as well as physical descriptions of the central desert region of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) in Australia’s Northern Territory. These sites, which are now part of a national park, are sacred to the Anangu, and Arnold provides a brief overview of the history and beliefs of "Australia’s First People." The concept of Tjukurpa, a view of the world and its creation as well as the laws that govern daily life, is explained, and the author points out physical features of the rock formations that are related to events that occurred during the creation time. Other chapters discuss the formation’s geological history, the plants and animals that live there and in the surrounding region, and the desert climate. The text offers good examples of the relationship between the Aboriginal people and the land, and their use of its resources. The writing is lucid and logical. All of the full-color photographs are appropriately labeled, but some are slightly out of focus. The index is useful, but it omits some important words, e.g., mulga and wallaby. An adequate resource for libraries with a need for information about this region and its inhabitants.Paul J. Bisnette, Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, CTCopyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 4-8. Arnold takes readers on an informative tour of Uluru, the enormous red sandstone rock that rises from the flat plain of the central Australian desert. Once called Ayres Rock and billed as a tourist attraction within a national park, Uluru and the land surrounding it have been returned to the Anangu, the aboriginal people of the area, who now control access to sacred sites and allow visitors entry to the area in a way that protects and enhances their land. Arnold retells several traditional stories connected with Uluru, discusses the geology and origins of the rock formation, and introduces the surrounding desert landscape and its wildlife. The book’s greatest accomplishment, though, is to give readers a sense of the ongoing spiritual importance of Uluru to the Anangu, who have lived around it for 10,000 years. Clear, colorful photos of Uluru and its surroundings appear on nearly every page, illustrating the text with beauty and finesse. The presentation concludes with a combination glossary and pronunciation guide and an author’s note, which recommends a few books. Carolyn PhelanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

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