

Indigenous Australians are the first human inhabitants of the Australian continent and its nearby islands and their descendants. Indigenous Australians are distinguished as either Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, who currently together make up about 2.6% of Australia's population. The Torres Strait Islanders are indigenous to the Torres Strait Islands which are at the northern-most tip of Queensland near New Guinea. The term "Aboriginal" has traditionally been applied to indigenous inhabitants of mainland Australia, Tasmania, and some of the other adjacent islands. The use of the term is becoming less common, with names preferred by the various groups becoming more common. The earliest evidence of human habitation found to date are that of Mungo Man which have been dated at about 40,000 years old, but the time of arrival of the ancestors of indigenous Australians is a matter of debate among researchers, with estimates ranging as high as 125,000 years ago. There is great diversity between different indigenous communities and societies in Australia, each with its own unique cultures, customs and languages. In present day Australia these groups are further divided into local communities. Although there were over 250 spoken languages at the start of white settlement, fewer than 200 of these remain in use and all but 20 are considered to be endangered. The population of indigenous Australians at the time of permanent European settlement has been estimated at between 318,000 and 750,000, with the distribution being similar to that of the current Australian population, with the majority living in the south-east, centred along the Murray River.

indijanis ɔsɟræleinz Δ tɪl fɜrst hyɔmin inhɔbitnɔs ov tɪl ɔsɟræleɪn kontɪnɪnt ɔnd its neɪbɪ Iliɪnɔs ɔnd tɪl disendɪnɔs. indijanis ɔsɟræleinz Δ disdɪggwɪst ɔz tɪl ɔbɔrɪjɪnɔl pɛpɔl ɔnd tores sɟræɪt Iliɪndɪz, hɔ kɔrɪntle tɪgetɪl mæɪk ɔp ɔbɔt 2.6% ov ɔsɟræleɪz pɔpɪlæʃɪn. tɪl tores sɟræɪt Iliɪndɪz Δ indijanis tɔ tɪl tores sɟræɪt Iliɪnɔs wɪtɪ Δ ɔt tɪl nɔ:θɪn-mɔst tɪp ov qɛnzlɪnd neɪ nyɔ gɪneɪl. tɪl tɜrn "ɔbɔrɪjɪnɔl" hɔz ɔɪrɔdɪʃɪnle ben ɔpɪɪd tɔ indijanis inhɔbitnɔs ov mæɪnlɔnd ɔsɟræleɪl, tɔzmæneɪl, ɔnd sɔm ov tɪl ɔtɪl ɔjæstɪnt Iliɪnɔs. tɪl yɔs ov tɪl tɜrn ɪz beklæmɛð les kɔmɪn, wɪtɪl nɔemz prɪfɜrd bɪ tɪl vereɪs grɔps beklæmɛð mɔ kɔmɪn.

tɪl ɜleɪst evɔdɪns ov hyɔmin hɔbɔtæʃɪn fɔund tɔ dæɪt Δ tɪt ov mɔggɔ mɔn wɪtɪl hɔv ben dæɪtɪd ɔt ɔbɔt 40,000 yeɪlz ɔwd, bɔt tɪl tɪm ov ɔrɪvɔl ov tɪl ɔnsɛstɪz ov indijanis ɔsɟræleɪnz ɪz ɔ mɔtɔl ov dɪbæɪt ɔmɔð rɛsɜrɔɪz, wɪtɪl estɪmɪɔs rɛɪnjɛð ɔz hɪ ɔz 125,000 yeɪlz ɔgɔ.

tɪl ɪz græɪt dɪvɜrsɔte bɪtwɛn dɪfrɪnt indijanis kɪmɔnɪtez ɔnd sɪsɪlætez ɪn ɔsɟræleɪl, ɛtɪ wɪtɪl ɪts ɔn yɔnek kɔwɔɪz, kɔstɪmz ɔnd lɔggwɔljɪz. ɪn prezɪnt dæɪ ɔsɟræleɪl tɪz grɔps Δ fɜrtɪl dɪvɪdɪd ɪntɔ lɔkɔl kɪmɔnɪtez. ɔtɪɔ tɪl wɜr ɔnɔ 250 spɔkɪn lɔggwɔljɪz ɔt tɪl sɔdɪt ov wɪt setɔlmɪnt, fyɔwɔ tɪɔn 200 ov tɪz rɪmæɪn ɪn yɔs ɔnd ɔɪ bɔt 20 Δ kɪnsɪdɪd tɔ be ɪndæɪnjɪd. tɪl pɔpɪlæʃɪn ov indijanis ɔsɟræleɪnz ɔt tɪl tɪm ov pɜrmɔnɪnt yɔrɔpɛɪn setɔlmɪnt hɔz ben estɪmɪt ɔt bɪtwɛn 318,000 ɔnd 750,000, wɪtɪl tɪl dɪsɟrɔbɔʃɪn beð sɪmlɔl tɔ tɪt ov tɪl kɔrɪnt ɔsɟræleɪn pɔpɪlæʃɪn, wɪtɪl tɪl mɔjɔrɔte lɪvɛð ɪn tɪl sɔ:θɪ-est, sentɪd ɔlɔð tɪl mɔrɛ rɪvɔl.