

**Lena**

Hello. Welcome. How are you?  
I am delighted to welcome you here today.  
I'm going to talk to you about my work  
as a scientist. You all know what a  
scientist is, right?

You know what it is? Kids?

A scientist is someone who  
seeks to understand the mysteries  
that surround us; these can be about  
the stars, water, electricity.

What interests me in my job is  
to discover the history of men  
by examining tiny parts of  
the human body. Because you see,  
there's something incredible:  
the history of humanity is contained  
in each individual. For example, you,  
if I analyse one of your hairs or  
a tiny bit of your saliva, I could discover,  
if your grandmother was tall or short,  
if your grandfather was colour blind,  
if your great-grandfather had red hair,  
and above all I could go a long way back  
into your family's history and see  
whether your great-great-grandparents  
came from France, Russia or China.

A scientist is someone who has tools  
to carry out incredible research, like a detective!  
And today I'm going to speak to you about  
an incredible investigation I made.

But first, let me introduce myself.  
My name is Lena, and I am a  
Professor at the University of Geneva.

**Rupert**

Yeah...

**Lena**

So, my name is Lena.  
With other scientists we have analysed...

**Rupert**

Lenanaconda...Lenanalysed...

**Lena**

Sir? Thank you! As I was saying,  
in saliva for example, or hair,  
we can find clues about the origins  
of our ancestors.

In the context of my research, we asked  
some Aborigines from Australia  
if they would agree to give us a little  
of their saliva to analyse it together...

**Rupert**

What nonsense!

**Lena**

Sir! I have some interesting things  
to explain to the audience!  
Thank you.

**Rupert**

Yes but first you say that you're a scientist  
but that's not possible.

**Audience**

Please stop.

**Rupert**

A scientist is an old man  
in a white coat with glasses...

**Lena**

Ok, come here.

**Rupert**

Me?

**Lena**

Yes, you. Come here.

**Rupert**

No...sorry, I didn't understand...

**Lena**

Please come here, don't be afraid...  
you can help me, instead of talking  
nonsense...  
Come closer.  
What's your name?

**Rupert**  
Rupert.

**Lena**  
And what do you do in  
life, Rupert?

**Rupert**  
I'm a librarian!

**Lena** (*provocative*)  
Ah, and you're not a woman?  
Normally it's a profession for women!

**Rupert** (*shocked*)  
Why? There are plenty of male  
librarians! It's stupid to say that!

**Lena**  
Just as stupid as saying that  
women can't be scientists.  
Stay here please.  
Now, do you know what saliva contains?

**Someone**  
Microbes?

**Lena**  
Yes, but not only.  
Rupert, do you know?

**Rupert**  
Heu...cells?

**Lena**  
Bravo Rupert, that's it!  
Our body is made up of billions  
of very tiny bricks, so minute that  
one can't see them with the naked eye,  
but only with a very powerful microscope;  
these bricks are called cells; we are all  
made up of them. And in each cell  
there's something even tinier. DNA!  
All human beings, animals and even  
cauliflowers, all plants are made up of  
cells containing DNA.  
Everything that is living is composed of cells.  
Cells form the leaves and stems of plants

or the flesh, blood, nose, ears of human beings.

**Rupert**

Yes, but...

**Lena**

Yes?

**Rupert**

Well, we can't be made up of  
the same stuff as cauliflowers,  
we're not cauliflowers!

**Lena**

Of course we're not cauliflowers!  
Although looking at you one may  
have some doubts.  
DNA contains what defines us  
as a species: DNA is like letters.  
These letters compose a big book,  
and this big book is called «the genome»,  
it's inside us and tells how we are made,  
we humans.

But it's not the same book as that of  
the snake or the fern. We have the *human* genome  
Not the genome of the cauliflower.  
We don't have the history of the cauliflower inside us!  
Do you understand, Rupert?

**Rupert**

Ok, so I understand: the human genome isn't  
that of cauliflowers, cats or snakes.  
Yes but if human beings all have the same book.  
I mean the same genome.

**Lena**

Yes, what?

**Rupert**

Why don't we all look alike?

**Lena**

Good question Rupert.  
Why don't we all look alike?  
All humans have the same *genome*,  
but there are little details that change  
from one person to another.  
For example children don't have exactly  
the same genome as their parents.

We all share the same human *genome*  
but there are tiny differences  
that make us unique.

Listen carefully.

The DNA in the cell  
comes together and creates  
shapes that look like that.

Imagine that this object is so small  
that it can be contained in a cell.  
We call this object a chromosome.

We humans have 46 per cell and  
they are always the same in each cell.

These chromosomes are made up of DNA  
and they always go in pairs.

I need a family to explain this properly.  
Rupert, can you give me a hand please?  
I would need three people.

Two of you to play the parents  
and also one person to play the child.

You? Super, please stand on my right.  
It's very quick and simple, don't be afraid.

Ah super, Madame, on my right please,  
and a third person to play the child?

Sir, you will play the child?  
Super, it's more interesting like that...

And of course, don't hesitate to interrupt me  
with questions if it's not clear!  
Practising science is above all  
daring to ask all the questions that  
come to your mind.

So, why don't we all have the same appearance?

What's your name?

Vivianne

**Lena**

Good, you will be the mum.

Here's your pair of chromosomes.  
Please hold them like this in front of you.

What is your name?

Solal

**Lena**

OK, Solal, you're the dad,  
not the child for a change.

Here is your pair of chromosomes.

And you?

Serge

**Lena**

Vivianne, Solal and Serge.

Good, let's imagine, just imagine, that  
Vivienne and Solal-turned-adult  
want to have a baby together.

Have a good look at what happens in the body.  
Rupert you are following me?

**Rupert**

Yes

**Lena**

Vivianne: can you give half  
your chromosomes to Serge.

Solal: also give half  
your chromosomes to Serge.

and look... we have just seen the birth of  
Serge's first cell...

this first cell will multiply so that  
it grows to a hundred thousand billion cells  
to create the Serge you see before you.

Each of Serge's cells contains chromosomes  
transmitted by his father and  
chromosomes transmitted by his mother.  
In the chromosomes there's the DNA  
that defines us and builds us, remember!  
As we receive it from our parents, Rupert,

it's normal that we resemble them a bit!  
they are part of our history, our book,  
our DNA...but we don't look exactly like them.

**Rupert** (insistent)

Ok, I understand.

But if Serge has brothers and sisters,  
they too will receive the chromosomes  
of dad and mum.

So if all Serge's brothers and sisters  
receive the same chromosomes...  
why don't they all look alike?

**Lena**

Oh, it's an obsession with you!  
Rupert, they will never receive  
the same chromosomes.  
There for the example I took  
only one pair of chromosomes.  
They only had the choice between  
two possibilities, give from  
their right hand or from their left...  
but in reality, in the body there  
are many more possibilities, look.

**Rupert**

46 chromosomes...

**Lena**

Yes, 46 per cell!  
23 pairs of chromosomes.  
The children never receive  
the same combination  
of chromosomes from their parents,  
and are always different,  
Each individual from the same family  
is therefore different from his/her brother or sister  
And in addition, each time the parents give their DNA  
to their children, the DNA changes  
a little, it undergoes a small "*mutation*"!

The history is enriched with each child  
that's born in each generation!

*Thank you Solal, Liliane and  
Serge for the demonstration, it's perfect.*

So we, well myself...and my colleagues...  
or rather, my colleagues and I,

we have been studying the evolution of humanity since the beginning of time, thanks to the analysis of DNA, of chromosomes, of the genome.

**Rupert (lost)**

Wow, complicated...

**Lena**

But no, it's simple.

Rupert, each child receives the chromosomes from its parents, and the parents have received the chromosomes from the grandparents, and the grandparents received the chromosomes from the great-grandparents, and so on.

In each child, in each person, in their genome, there's the history of all their ancestors...thanks to this we can go back in time and study how men are made, where they come from and how they have evolved since time immemorial.

**Rupert**

That's quite something, it's almost magic.

**Lena**

Absolutely not. It's scientific.

One can find traces of DNA, in fossils of prehistoric humans and compare them with the DNA of today's human populations; look at the differences between prehistoric and contemporary men, and thus understand the evolution of such and such a population!

What is "*magic*", I grant you, Rupert, is that since all is in the DNA, in the infinitely tiny, it only takes a small bit of a prehistoric tooth or hair to obtain all this information.

**Rupert**

Well, fantastic!

Can I sum up?

Well try to sum up?

We are all the same, well, made up of the same stuff,



which has been transmitted  
since time immemorial  
up to today.  
And it's in the tiniest part of each of us,  
old or young, that we find traces of  
parents, grandparents and so on.  
Studying the genome is like travelling in time!

**Lena**

Great Rupert! Thank you!  
I was just going to suggest  
a trip into the past.  
Do you like travelling, kids?

**Lena**

Ok, get ready! We need the boomerang-chromosomes  
what else....Ah yes, I need to explain to you  
the journey we're going to make.  
It's a journey into a very distant time,  
a journey to the origins to meet the first  
inhabitants of Australia. You know Australia?

**Lena**

Yes, where is it?

**Lena**

It's here, right?

**Kid**

I was born there.

**Rupert**

You were born there?

**Lena**

Look, it's there, in Oceania.  
We have an Aboriginal Australian in the audience.  
So it is here. And we are up here, so it's very far.  
Do you know what  
the first inhabitants of Australia were called?

Yes, Aborigines.

They have been living there for 65,000 years  
and have managed to preserve their ancestral culture.  
We wanted to get to know them better and  
find out where exactly they came from.  
And do you know how we discovered  
where they came from?

**Lena**

We asked 83 Aborigines from different communities if they would agree to give us a bit of their saliva so that we could analyse it together... They agreed!...and in their saliva we studied their genome, we were able to go back in time and we saw something...

**Rupert**

What?

**Lena**

We discovered that they all came from Africa!

**Rupert**

Hum, how did you see that?

**Lena**

We studied their genomes! We compared their genome with that of current African, Asian and European populations and noticed that all these populations had a common ancestor coming from Africa.

**Rupert**

What? But wait... that means that we too come from Africa?!

**Lena**

That's right, Asians, Europeans and Aborigines, we all come from Africa.

**Rupert**

Yeah, that's a bit crazy!

**Lena**

But all humanity comes originally from Africa. We are all homo sapiens. Earlier, there were other types of prehistoric men and women, all more or less cousins of the chimpanzees; but one day the anatomically modern human appeared, of whom we are all descendants; and he appeared in Africa!

**Rupert**

Incredible.

**Lena**

Yes, these African homo sapiens were adventurers,  
they wanted to explore the world,  
they came out of Africa and peopled the whole earth.  
The most astonishing result of our study is  
that among these adventurers,  
once they had left Africa,  
some of them went rapidly to Australia.  
Others went to Europe,  
but did not arrive there much earlier,  
as if they had been held back for thousands of years.

**Rupert**

But how did they manage to arrive in Australia first  
if they left at the same time?  
Europe is much closer to Africa than Australia!  
You really saw that in their genomes? Are you sure?

**Lena**

Yes, today I am sure,  
but science is progressing every day.  
It often happens that with more data  
we reach other conclusions.

**Rupert**

But how did they manage  
to cross the planet on foot?

**Lena**

We have a few clues as to  
how they made this journey.  
But I'd like to suggest  
we make it together,  
with a bit of imagination!

**Rupert**

Ok.

**Lena**

Imagine that you are  
the first homo sapiens on the planet.  
You have been living in Africa  
for a long time, it's pretty, it's warm,  
but you want to move, see other territories;  
you decide to leave on an adventure.  
Shall we leave on an adventure?

**Rupert**

Yeah!

**Lena**

This journey takes place over  
thousands and thousands of years,  
each step we take represents sometimes  
a thousand years.  
Do you understand?

**Rupert**

We're going to walk thousands of years?

**Lena**

Yes, it's a long way from Africa to Australia.  
But we're going to accelerate time  
at each step, as I said,  
we'll advance a thousand years sometimes.  
Come, imagine that  
we are leaving our homes.  
We're going to cross, my hat please,  
jungles, deserts, tropical forests...  
then take to the sea!  
Come, follow me.  
Rupert?

**Rupert**

Yes?

**Lena**

Would you bring up the rear please?

**Rupert**

Ok. Ok, Lena.

**Lena**

Watch out for lions, mammoths, tigers.  
And watch out for the stairs. Come!  
Is everyone following? Rupert?

**Rupert**

Yes, we are alive! But we are many!

**Lena**

Come towards me everyone.  
We will wait for everyone.

**Rupert**

1000 years, 2000 years, 3000 years, 4000 years,  
5000 years, 6000 years, 7000 years, 8000 years,  
9000 years, 10,000 years.

**Lena**

Move forward. Don't worry.  
We're travelling on foot,  
then with boats made of bamboo.  
It's quite a journey, dangerous!

**Kid**

On a horse?

**Lena**

No. Imagine the rafts that sink,  
the animals that attack on land and sea.

**Rupert**

Nooooooooooooo!

**Lena**

What's happening Rupert?

**Rupert**

It's horrible We've lost little François!

**Lena**

Ha no!! Stay bunched behind me.  
Bring up the rear Rupert!

**Rupert**

Ok, but I am so scared.

**Lena**

Show some courage!  
We're nearly there!

**Rupert**

Ok, let's go...

**Lena**

Come!

**Rupert**

Did you take your arrows?  
I forgot my bow.  
I don't have a blowgun. I have nothing!  
Stay away from Mammoth's poop.

**Lena**

Everyone's here? Yes!

We are arriving on a continent  
where there are no human beings,  
we're the first!  
hum....not very welcoming!  
Ah! What's that? But...who are you?

**Rupert**

Me?

**Lena**

Yes you! I ask you  
who you are?

**Rupert**

Euh... well, it's me...

**Lena**

No. I ask you who you are...

**Rupert**

It's me, Rupert.

**Lena**

No.

**Rupert**

Euh... yes.

**Lena**

No, you are  
a Kangaroo over two metres high  
that I am meeting in this unknown land!

**Rupert**

Hein?

**Lena**

You are a Kangaroo over...three metres high...

**Rupert**

Euh, ok...

**Lena**

Here.

**Rupert**

I am a Kangaroo, three metres high.

You are here in my land, and that of all the animals.

**Lena**

Do you hear that?

We are in the kingdom of the kangaroo,  
the goanna and the snake.

Mr Kangaroo...

**Rupert.**

Yes

**Lena**

we are the first human beings  
to discover this continent. What's it called?

**Kangaroo** (improvising)

How do I know that?? Euh...Salut!

**Lena**

Salut?!

**Kangaroo**

No...no...euh...Salül

**Lena**

Sahul!

**Kangaroo**

Sahul! Ok. ..later it will break up  
into several pieces and form  
among other places

Tasmania, New Guinea, the Torres Straight Islands  
and of course...Australia.

Here all the animals are magic.

We were here at the creation of the universe,  
we even took part in it.

**Lena**

Keep going this way.

Follow him!

**Rupert**

When the giant serpent passes,  
he draws rivers and watering places;  
when the gigantic turtles sleeps on its back,  
it creates huge valleys.

When the goanna spits, it makes lakes.

**Lena**

One has the impression of dreaming.

**Kangaroo**

Of course you are dreaming,  
we all dream. We are living in dream time.

**Lena**

Hein?

**Kangaroo**

We are living in dream time. The dream...time!

**Lena**

Dream time...  
But what you're creating,  
these lakes, these rivers,  
they're real, aren't they?

**Kangaroo**

Yes, but who said dreams are not real?  
If one believes in something,  
it becomes real.  
If you believe in magic animals and dream time,  
then they'll be your reality.

**Lena**

And we are here with you in this *dreamtime*...

**Kangaroo**

Yes, you are the first humans to people this land!  
Welcome, my friends,  
welcome to this land and to dreamtime.

**Lena**

You hear that?  
That means we are the ancestors of  
those called the Australian Aborigines.

**Lena**

Aborigines means

**Kangaroo**

I know that!  
It means  
«those who were there at the origin»!

**Lena**

The first!



**Kangaroo**

You're going to leave a trace of everything  
you are experiencing, your journey,  
your histories, the creator animals.

**Lena**

We Aborigines are going to make  
drawings and sculptures.  
We could also engrave on tree trunks  
all our beliefs and all our adventures.  
All this will constitute a real mystery  
for the scientists of tomorrow.

***Voice of the Kangaroo***

*It works! Life is mysterious,  
the history of humanity is mysterious.  
Because we live in the time of...*

**Lena**

Dream!  
Oh the Kangaroo is everywhere!

***Voice of the Kangaroo***

*We live in what time?*

**Kid**

Dreamtime!

**Kangaroo**

*In dream time.  
...and you, the Aborigines,  
you are hunters and gatherers...  
your way of recounting your adventures,  
of recounting your beliefs,  
is through painting, singing, dancing and  
handing down ancestral stories  
from generation to generation.  
You immortalise your hunting  
by painting in the caves with soil and  
mysterious powders.  
You make the dream real, or the real a dream...  
Dreamed reality...realised dream...  
dream realising a real dream...  
Whatever!  
In the Aboriginal culture,  
if I understood it well,  
art is not just creating beautiful objects or drawings,  
it's also and above all  
continuing the creation of the world.*

**Lena**

Continuing the creating of the world.

**Kangaroo**

It's in this way that the culture  
Is transmitted from one generation to another.

That is how today's Aborigines never lost  
the link to the past.

In thousands of years scientists will find  
your paintings and your objects and  
will be able to understand how you lived.

**Lena**

Drawing, sculpting, painting, making music,  
dancing, creating, that's part of our life,  
for us Aborigines.

You hear, the parrots, the budgies,  
all these strange and fascinating animals,  
The koala, the Tasmanian devil,  
the platypus, the dingo,  
the wombat, the emu,  
listen...listen...

it was good to imagine being the *first* Aborigines...  
but now we are going to leave these distant times  
and travel further in time...follow me...

Come over here...stop.

Imagine that time has passed  
and the population has grown!

Rupert!

**Rupert**

Sorry.

**Lena**

Imagine that time has passed  
and the population has grown!

The Aborigines have divided into  
a multitude of different groups.

Each group has developed its own language,  
its own culture.

Of course the Aborigines have many points in common,  
but the communities are beginning  
to become very different from each other.

Certain Aborigines live in tropical regions,  
others in arid regions,  
some live along the coasts or rivers

look, there's a fishing net that's being made,  
and there are others who live literally in the desert!  
In other words, in different parts of this great island of Sahul  
which looks increasingly like  
the Australia that we know...  
Let's move forward a little.

Certain Aboriginal communities learn  
how to make rain fall,  
others are expert in fire  
and know how to master it.  
Each community is, in a manner of speaking,  
the protector of its land, and it knows it well.  
Look, for example,  
in this little vial on the right  
the larva of honey ants.  
Its called Yarumpa.  
It's delicious and a concentration of energy!

All the communities have their own ancestral histories  
and their own beliefs.  
There, on the left, the wizard's slippers.

Aborigines venerate a sacred animal;  
for some it's the rainbow serpent,  
for others the whale,  
and for others still the giant turtle.

Each Aborigine is bound  
since his birth to a totem animal;  
if I am an Aborigine and  
my animal totem is the kangaroo,  
then I cannot hunt it or eat it,  
I have to protect it, as it's my totem animal.

Come, we will see the rainbow serpent over there.

You see the snake there  
well it's one of these creator animals, from the dream time.

Rupert!

Rupert, put back the hat right away!  
What are you playing at?...Napoleon?

**White man**

No, I'm Captain Cook...Captain James Cook.  
And on this day of May 1770,  
I am discovering Australia!

**Lena**

What... how's that?...  
what do you mean 'you discover'?  
The Aborigines have been there for 65,000 year  
Here, it's their land.

**White man**

Prove it!

**Lena**

What?

**Rupert**

I don't consider you even as human beings.  
So there's no one on this land.

**Lena**

Are you insane!?

**White man**

Thanks to my discovery we will come back  
and take possession of the place  
in the name of the Crown of England.  
Everything that's here will belong to us.  
The riches, minerals, water, plants and animals.  
I'll go and fetch my soldiers, move aside.

**Lena**

What?!

The Aborigines will become strangers on their own land?

Come...

Dreamtime will be in danger of disappearing,  
but the Aborigines will do their utmost  
to remember it, keep it in their memory.  
They will continue to relate  
the histories of their ancestors and  
pay homage to life and the creator animals.

In the Aboriginal culture,  
I don't know whether you are aware of this,

knowledge is transmitted orally.  
There's no writing.

Songs make it possible to memorise  
the right paths to go from one place to another,

to remember dangers and  
the watering places on the way.

Paintings serve them as writing and  
are often charts representing sacred sites.

For example this one,  
this picture represents  
the sacred site *Mina Mina*.  
It's in the Northern Territory, quite close to  
a dried up salt lake in the midst of the desert.

When it rains, once a year,  
the salt crystals rise to the surface and  
leave these white traces interlaced on the ground.  
These traces of salt are also the traces of  
the passage of spirits for the Aborigines of this region.

Come. Look here at this sculpture, in bronze,  
does anyone know what it is?

An otter? No.  
A seal? No.  
An orca? No.  
It's a dugong, a marine animal,  
an endangered species today,  
there it's in bronze and mother-of-pearl,  
and shown plunging into the sea to feed,  
and the Aborigine artist has represented it  
in this way to show that it's endangered  
because illegal fishing is too intense  
where it lives, in the north of Australia.

Come, follow me....

Sit down please, is everyone here?  
You can come in, there's room...Please...

## **Part 3.**

**Lena**

So. Here we are in the last part of our journey.

Hmm...Rupert, can you explain!

What's this story of invasion, this Captain Cook?

What's all this?

**Rupert**

Yes Yes...Ok, I'll explain to you  
what happened with this Captain Cook.

**Lena**

Explain! Rupert!

**Rupert**

Yes! He worked for the Crown of England...  
for a king called George...  
you play George!

**Lena**

In Aborigine language, «George» means liar!

**Rupert**

But that's alright.

**Lena**

But I'm on the side of the Aborigines.

**Rupert**

Yes, me too! But we are only two.

**Lena-king of England**

We are going to exterminate you.

**Rupert**

You are not going to play him  
with a false British accent?

**Lena**

Of course I will with an accent.

We are going to exterminate you.

**Rupert**

But it's not working with the accent!

**Lena**

But what, I am the king of England!  
We are going to exterminate you.

**Rupert**

Pfff

**Lena**

What you want to do it?

We are going to get rich  
thanks to everything we'll steal  
at your place, in Australia:  
gold, silver, coal.

But we could have even more...  
send more people over to you to steal from you.  
Oh, I've got an idea!

Why not kill two birds with one stone and  
get rid of our English bandits and prisoners  
who fill our prisons and send them to Australia  
to work for us?

Thank you God, that's a good idea.  
Send English prisoners to Australia,  
and exterminate all the Aborigines...

**Rupert**

We'll play a little game,  
when we fire on you, pretend to die.

**Lena-king of England**

You play the Aborigines.  
This is the game of extermination,  
are you ready James for the game of extermination?

**Rupert**

Too easy! Not working, what's happening?  
What a nice afternoon, George?  
Very funny!  
Are there still left?

**Lena**

There are 2 left!!!

**Rupert**

Only two?  
We are the champions, my friend...

**Rupert**

It's horrible, but true.  
The English prisoners arrived  
by the thousands in Australia,  
then farmers...

**Lena**

then gold-seekers, then farmers,  
and then animals imported from Europe  
and little by little the Aborigines  
became strangers in their own land.

The colonists tried to exterminate them,  
but they failed.

**Rupert**

Then they tried to assimilate them:  
they stole Aboriginal children...  
they tore the children from their families  
to put them in orphanages thousands of miles away.

**Lena**

So that they'd forget where they came from,  
forget their parents, their culture,...

They wanted to bleach them out.  
But that too failed to make their culture disappear completely.

Imagine, scarcely 50 years ago  
the colonists didn't consider the Aborigines as human beings

**Lena**

As animals.

**Rupert**

That's it. As part of the fauna and flora.

**Lena**

They were not part of the census.

**Rupert**

They were not counted  
during a census of the Australian population.

**Lena**

They had to fight against repeated acts of genocide.

**Rupert**

It's horrible, this story...  
I am not Aborigine but



let's imagine that I am one,  
What could I think of all this?  
Let's imagine that I am Aborigine. Thanks.

*So. The English have killed  
many of our sacred animals.  
They have imposed on us their one God by force.  
They have stolen our children,  
so many children that  
one speaks today of a stolen generation...  
They have transmitted to us mortal diseases and  
wanted to reduce us to misery.  
What else can I say?*

**Lena**  
Hello.

**Aborigine**  
Hello.

**Lena**  
Since when have you been in Australia?

**Aborigine**  
Us Aborigines. For ever of course!  
Isn't that what you explained to the children earlier?

**Lena**  
Almost! I explained to them that  
you have been there for an eternity.  
Do you too want to know  
what's written in your genomes?

**Aborigine**  
Yes, of course!  
I'd like to know  
what you have been able to see in our saliva.

**Lena**  
In your genomes it is written  
that you have been there *essentially*  
since the beginning of humanity!  
Your ancestors must have been  
among the most daring of all human populations.

**Aborigine**  
So your study confirms what we already knew!  
That's great!  
We have ancestral connection with our land,  
we belong to this land!

**Lena**

Yes! We have also established  
as you had predicted  
thanks to your ancestral histories  
that all Aboriginal communities are connected.

In analysing your genome,  
we have seen that Aborigines are divided  
into a multitude of different groups;  
that each group developed its own language,  
its own culture; and that  
there are almost as many genetic differences  
between an Aborigine  
from the north and one from the south,  
than there is between a Chinese and a Swiss.

All this diversity is fine.  
But one mustn't forget  
that between us all,  
I mean human beings...  
there are very few differences.  
In our genes we are 99.9% identical.  
If we have visible differences,  
such as the colour of our skin for example,  
it's because generation after generation  
we have evolved, adapted to our environment.  
But we are of the same species, you and I,  
the human species.  
We all share the same genome, the human genome...

**Aborigine**

Yes, we share the same genome  
but unfortunately  
that didn't prevent the massacres of our populations and  
the non-respect of certain cultures.  
Even today. Take an example:  
the islands of the Torres Straits,  
off the north coast of Australia.  
The large fishing companies put giant nets  
into the sea and the sacred animals are killed,  
the whale, the shark, the turtle and others.  
What can one do against that?

**Lena**

Cut the nets?

**Aborigine**

They're too big, too solid,...

we can't do much,  
but that doesn't mean that  
we can't do anything.

The inhabitants of these islands  
reconstruct the animals killed  
by using the remains of the fishing nets.

And in this way they draw  
the rest of the world's attention  
to this serious problem!

Yes?  
What could they explain to the parents...?

**Child**

What did they tell the parents exactly?  
Did they just take them like that?  
Or did they say we take your children and  
we will kill them?

I don't know what they could have said.

But what I know is that it's the culture  
that makes a people.

And it's because we transmit it  
from parents to children  
that we can continue to be ourselves.

If our culture had disappeared,  
we would have disappeared too.  
But we are not going to disappear.  
Do you know why?

We are not going to disappear  
because you are here,  
because you are all here.

Because you see our works.  
As long as we continue to create them,  
as long as we tell our ancestral histories  
as long as our culture is transmitted,  
we will remain alive.

This story is also yours, after all,  
because we are all related.

**Lena**

Who wants to become an Aborigine?

