

# Discovery Worksheets

## Indigenous people

Australia's indigenous people — the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders — are not the only native populations to suffer greatly from the arrival of another new culture. Native communities are often persecuted and disadvantaged around the world. Their traditional way of life is frequently disrupted, if not destroyed, and their attachment to the land is often ignored in favour of more 'modern' claims.

### A world view of indigenous cultures

This table shows the estimated number of native peoples living in a selection of countries.

Estimated population of native peoples (m = million)			
Country	Total population	Indigenous population	Indigenous population as % of total population
Australia	16 m	200 000	1.25
Aotearoa/New Zealand	3.5 m	385 500	11
Scandinavia	17.2 m	60 000	0.003
United States	235 m	2.5 m	1
Canada	25 m	800 000	3
Latin America	371 m	30 m	8
India	800 m	51 m	6
USSR	275 m	1 m	0.36
China	1000 m	67 m	6.7
Philippines	53 m	6.5 m	12
Myanmar (Burma)	38 m	11 m	29
Bangladesh	98 m	1.1 m	1

Source: *New Internationalist Magazine*, August 1988. Issue 186

1. List the size of indigenous populations from largest to smallest.
2. Which of these 12 countries has the largest native population?
3. List the countries in order from the highest to the lowest proportion of indigenous people.
4. There are many countries missing from this table. Can you think of some reasons for this?



*Atlas of Discovery*, pp. 22–23