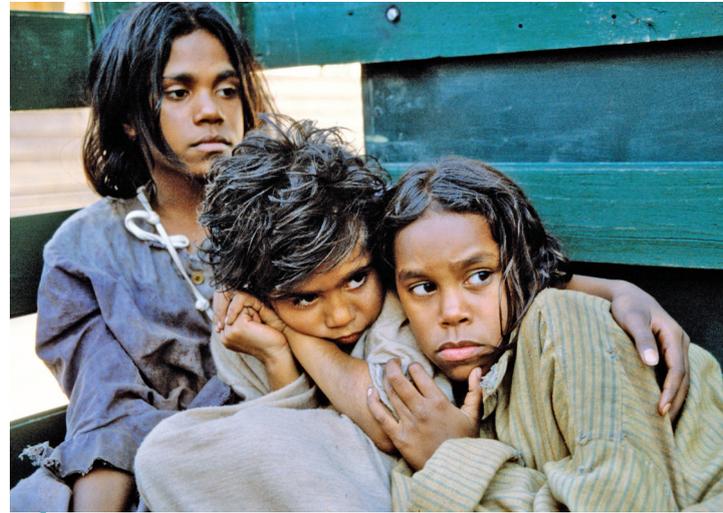## LISTENING

1 Read the information box. Then listen to the recording and take notes in French or in English.

2 Sum up in French what Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said to the members of the Parliament on February 13, 2008.

The Stolen Generations refer to the Aboriginal children that were removed from their parents by the Australian Federal and State government between 1869 and the early 1970s to be educated in church missions and gradually assimilated to white populations. Although the laws established in 1915 by the Aborigines' Protection Board were designed to protect these children, some were neglected and mistreated. The practice therefore became highly controversial and was officially abandoned in the early 1970s.

Phillip Noyce, *The Rabbit-Proof Fence*, 2002

SPEAKING

1 Observe the road signs and imagine everyday life in Western Australia (living conditions – climate – education – food – job – qualities required to live there).

2 Say what kind of future the inhabitants of this area can expect. Justify your answers.

MASS EXTINCTION

BUSH FIRES

SEVERE DROUGHT

NEXT 100 YEARS

DISCUSSING

PAIRWORK Observe the document and analyse the situation. Concentrate on the problem and imagine solutions to keep the Australian oceans the paradise they have always been.

Banner "No fish No future" displayed underwater by Greenpeace in the Pacific Ocean, 2009

NO FISH NO FUTURE GREENPEACE

READING

1 **Read the first paragraph and pick out information about Aboriginal culture and "Dreamtime".**

2 **Then read till the end of the text and say what events it refers to.**

3 **Find out words or phrases showing the impact those events had on the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area.**

Devil Marbles in the Australian outback

In the Aboriginal mythology the Devils Marbles are the eggs of the rainbow serpent, and many "Dreamtime" stories and traditions of the Warumungu, Kaytetye and Alyawarre Aboriginal people are linked with this area. It has a deep spiritual
5 meaning for both men and women (Aboriginal cultural sites are often specifically for either men or women).

The traditional Aboriginal owners of the area regard the Marbles as having extraordinary powers. Damage to them can have life-threatening consequences for their custodians[1].

10 Imagine their distress when in 1953 an eight-ton rock was taken from the area to be placed on John Flynn's[2] grave in Alice Springs.

A similar thing happened in 1980, when a rock from the Devils Pebbles (a similar area north of Tennant Creek), was removed without consulting the traditional owners.

15 The pebble[3] was returned in 1981, but only after 15 months of painful controversy and the tragic death of an Aboriginal elder.

The marble from Flynn's grave was eventually returned, too, and replaced with another rock, identified by and taken with the permission of the Alice Springs Arrernte people. But it took until 1998 for that to happen...
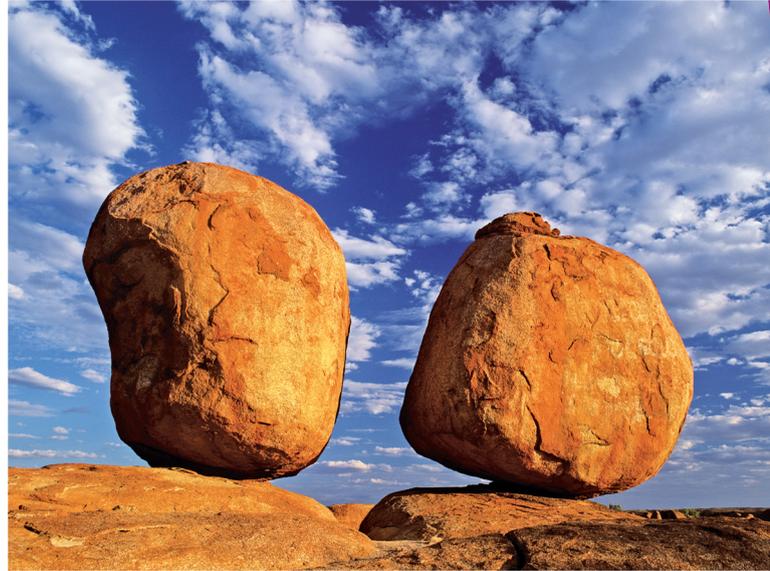
20 Even today very few white Australian people understand the distress that the desecration of sacred sites can cause.

Outback Australia travel guide, 2012

1. custodian (n.) [kʌˈstəʊdɪən] = guardian
2. John Flynn (1880-1951) = an Australian Presbyterian Minister who founded the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the world's first air ambulance
3. Pebble (n.) [ˈpebl] = small flat stone

WRITING

Kangaroos are killed because they destroy crops. Then they are used for their meat and skin. Mass killings are organised by the authorities.

You are a member of an animal conservation group. Write a letter of protest to the mayor of Canberra suggesting him/her to take measures to stop the killing and find alternatives to preserve kangaroos.

Useful words

- crops (n.) [krɒps]: *cultures*
- distress (n.) [dɪsˈtres]: *douleur*
- drought (n.) [draʊt]: *sécheresse*
- fauna (n.) [ˈfɔːnə]: *faune*
- lack (n.) [læk]: *manque*
- threat (n.) [θret]: *menace*

- indignant (adj.) [ɪnˈdɪgnənt]: *indigné*
- sacred (adj.) [ˈseɪkrɪd]: *sacré*
- threatening (adj.) [ˈθretnɪŋ]: *menaçant*

- be confronted with (v.) [biː kənˈfrʌntɪd wɪð]: *faire face à*
- damage (v.) [ˈdæmɪdʒ]: *endommager*
- slaughter (v.) [ˈslɔːtə]: *massacrer*