Module 8: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as sustainable resource managers

## Part A: First Footprints: The Biggest Estate (9,000 Years Ago – 1788)

Watch [First Footprints episode 4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbtWCwtRikQ) (duration 57:36).

Answer the following comprehension questions:

1. Summarise the first people’s history of management of the land.
2. What might have prompted the start of farming?
3. What were the advantages and disadvantages of farming?
4. How has the large scale manipulation of the environment changed the land?
5. Outline how the fish traps show that the people were ‘not just simple hunter-gatherers’?
6. What does ‘domesticating the landscape’ mean, as compared to ‘domesticating animals and plants’ in farming*?* What is the importance of fire and fire stick farming?
7. How did fire change environments across Australia? How did fire make food resources more reliable through policy rather than chance?
8. How can Australia be called the biggest estate, and in what ways is it different from what people did on other continents?

Respond to the following examination style question:

**Analyse methods used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to sustainably maintain the Australian resources. (6 marks)**

## Part B: Modern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sustainability initiatives

Watch [Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land Management Projects - Caring for Our Country](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Aicb4Wy4Sy0&feature=youtu.be) (duration 17:20).

Use this clip and any other resources to answer the following question:

Outline the processes used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (including those from Part A) that can be used to sustainably manage Australia’s natural resources in regard to:

* cultural traditions that preserve Country and Place and the resources located in those spaces.
* ongoing engagement with groups such as land councils, national parks and municipal councils to improve resource management
* legislation and actions to protect significant areas of Country and Place.