

Inspiration after Fraser Island renamed K'gari

B2+/C1 Reading comprehension true or false

Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, has officially been renamed to its traditional name K'gari (pronounced *GAR-ree*). The paradise island, off the coast of Queensland, Australia, is a popular tourist spot. It is also the home of the Butchulla, the indigenous Australians who have made the island their settlement for about 60,000 to 70,000 years.

With the restoration of its true name by the government comes adjustments to maps and road signs, but the change has greater symbolism to the Butchulla people than that. Their language and cultural coordinator said, "K'gari means to me, home. Home amongst my people, the descendants".

K'gari was where, in the 1830s, British captain James Fraser was shipwrecked with his wife Eliza Fraser and their crew. James and his crew died, but after Eliza was later rescued the landmark became known as Fraser Island. In 1992 UNESCO saw the island's significance and listed it as a heritage site. K'gari is quite distinctive. It has no roads, around 100 freshwater lakes, and the phenomenon of having the world's only rainforest on sand.

The campaign to have the island renamed has taken many years, but in 2021 the idea was embraced more seriously by the Australian government. In 2022 a public consultation was held and 70% of the submissions received were in favour of the change. The event was marked with a ceremony and an island elder said they hope the change brings inspiration to other people.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Fraser Island is now a private island. | True / False |
| 2. The Butchulla people called the island K'gari. | True / False |
| 3. The government have to keep Fraser Island as a legal name. | True / False |
| 4. K'gari has its own symbol which is tattooed onto residents. | True / False |
| 5. The Butchulla people will now have to leave the island. | True / False |
| 6. A statue of James and Eliza Fraser was also removed. | True / False |
| 7. K'gari has a special rainforest. | True / False |
| 8. The government were hesitant to rename the island. | True / False |
| 9. The majority of people wanted to see the island renamed. | True / False |
| 10. Butchulla members believe their story may help others. | True / False |

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Answers

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. True

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