

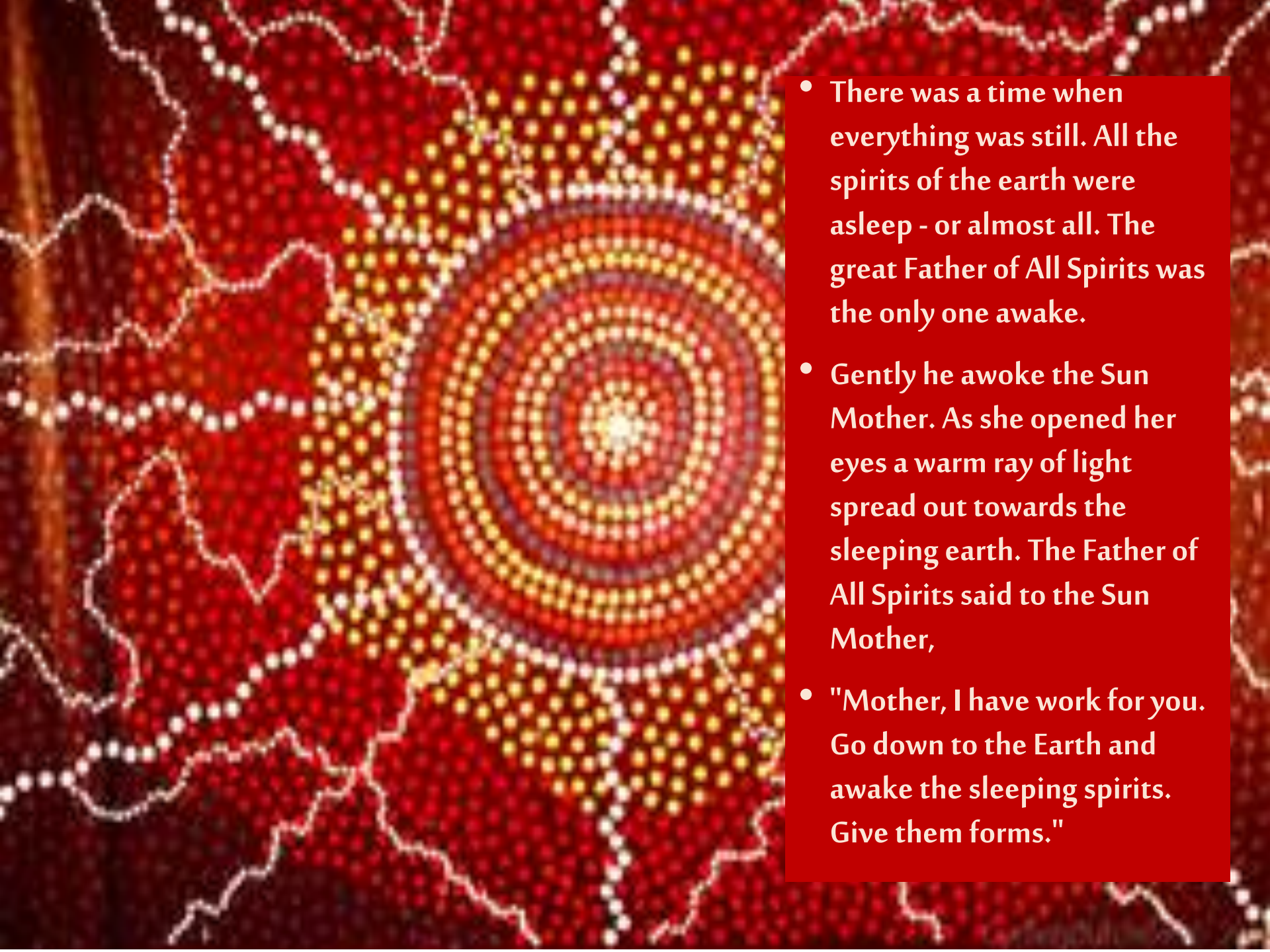
Aboriginal Story of Creation




...a bit of a background of the Aboriginal people.

The Occupants of the Land

For thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, Australia was occupied by different Aboriginal clans. Living mainly along the shores, they fished and hunted in the waters and harvested food from the surrounding bush. Self-sufficient and harmonious, they had no need to travel far from their lands, since the resources about them were so abundant, and trade with other tribal groups was well established. Moving throughout their country in accordance with the seasons, people only needed to spend about 4-5 hours per day working to ensure their survival. With such a large amount of leisure time available, they developed a rich and complex ritual life – language, customs, spirituality and the law – the heart of which was connection to the land.

- 
- There was a time when everything was still. All the spirits of the earth were asleep - or almost all. The great Father of All Spirits was the only one awake.
 - Gently he awoke the Sun Mother. As she opened her eyes a warm ray of light spread out towards the sleeping earth. The Father of All Spirits said to the Sun Mother,
 - "Mother, I have work for you. Go down to the Earth and awake the sleeping spirits. Give them forms."



The Sun Mother glided down to Earth, which was bare at the time and began to walk in all directions and everywhere she walked plants grew.

After returning to the field where she had begun her work the Mother rested, well pleased with herself.



The Father of All Spirits
came and saw her work, but
instructed her to go into the
caves and wake the spirits.

This time she ventured into
the dark caves on the
mountainsides. The bright
light that radiated from her
awoke the spirits and after
she left insects of all kinds
flew out of the caves.



The Sun Mother sat down and watched the glorious sight of her insects mingling with her flowers.

However once again the Father urged her on.

The Mother ventured into a very deep cave, spreading her light around her.
Her heat melted the ice and the rivers and streams of the world were created.

Then she created fish and small
snakes, lizards and frogs.



Next she awoke the spirits
of the birds and animals
and they burst into the
sunshine in a glorious
array of colours.

Seeing this the Father of All Spirits was pleased with the Sun Mother's work.

She called all her creatures to her and instructed them to enjoy the wealth of the earth and to live peacefully with one another.

Then she rose into the sky and became the sun.

The living creatures watched the Sun in awe as she crept across the sky, towards the west. However when she finally sunk beneath the horizon they were panic-stricken, thinking she had deserted them.

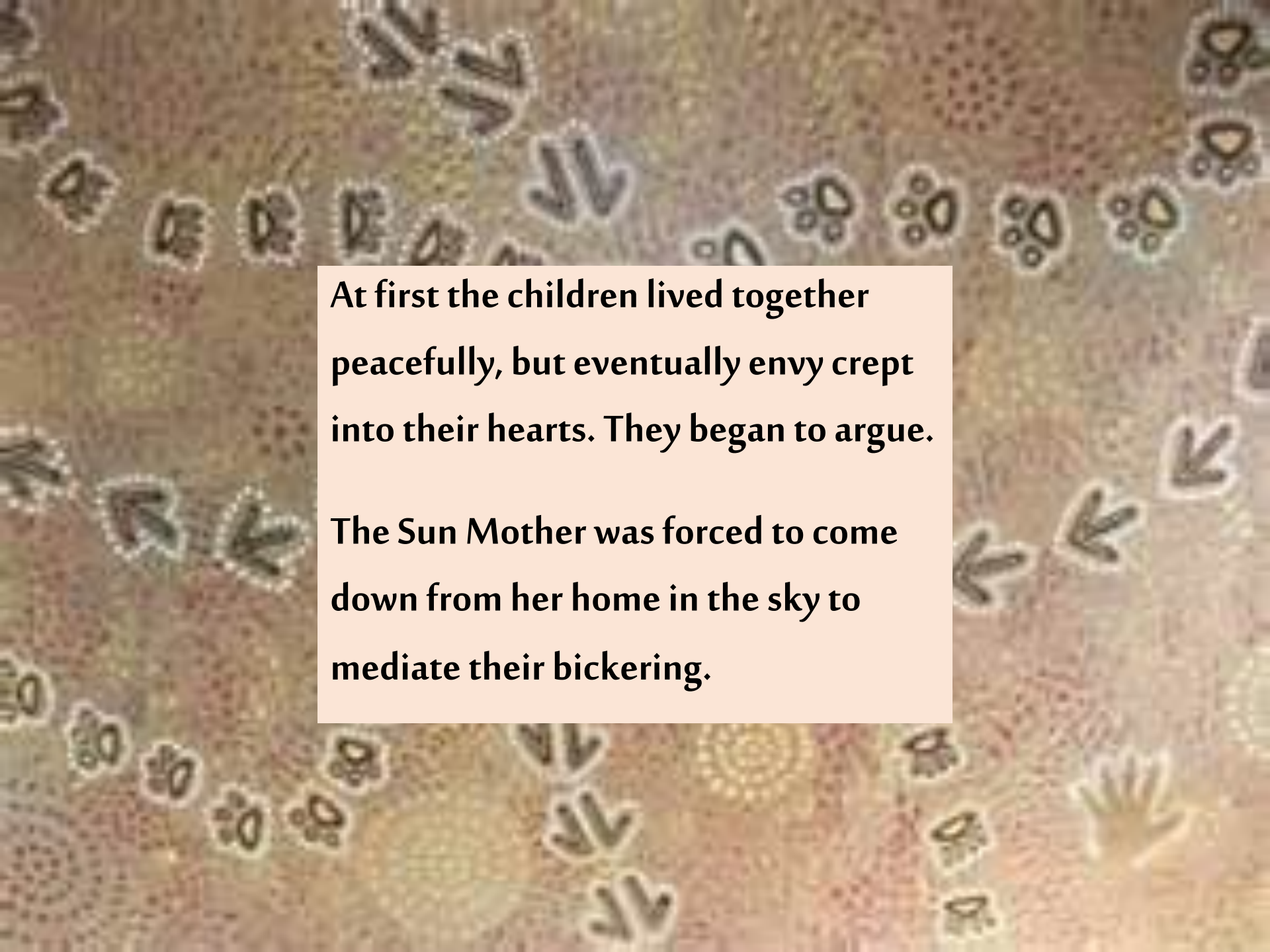


All night they stood frozen in
their places, thinking that the
end of time had come.

After what seemed to them
like a lifetime the Sun
Mother peeked her head
above the horizon in the East.

The earth's children learned
to expect her coming and
going and were no longer
afraid.



The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized arrows and clusters of dots in various shades of brown, tan, and gold, set against a textured, parchment-like background. The arrows point in different directions, and the dots are arranged in small groups, resembling a celestial or geometric design.

At first the children lived together peacefully, but eventually envy crept into their hearts. They began to argue.

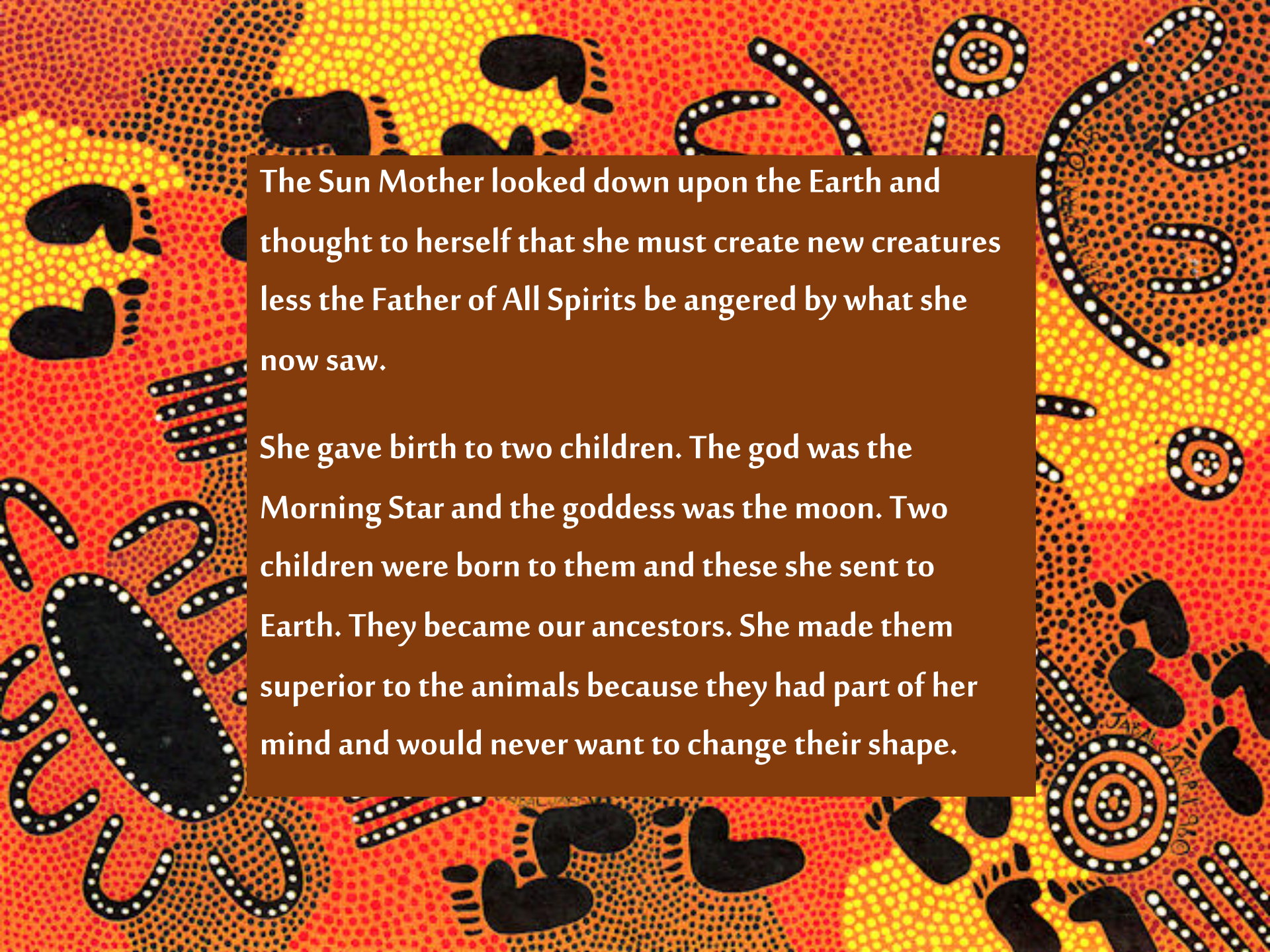
The Sun Mother was forced to come down from her home in the sky to mediate their bickering.



She gave each creature the power to change their form to whatever they chose.

However she was not pleased with the end result. The rats she had made had changed into bats; there were giant lizards and fish with blue tongues and feet.

However the oddest of the new animals was an animal with a bill like a duck, teeth for chewing, a tail like a beavers and the ability to lay egg. It was called the platypus.



The Sun Mother looked down upon the Earth and thought to herself that she must create new creatures less the Father of All Spirits be angered by what she now saw.

She gave birth to two children. The god was the Morning Star and the goddess was the moon. Two children were born to them and these she sent to Earth. They became our ancestors. She made them superior to the animals because they had part of her mind and would never want to change their shape.