

# A comparison of the australian aborigines and the na'vi in "avatar"



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

A Comparison of the Australian Aborigines and The Na'vi in Avatar. The widely acclaimed movie Avatar, directed by James Cameron, is known as a movie that portrays the treatment of the Aboriginal peoples. It shows many similarities in circumstances and views of the Aboriginal peoples. However there are still some differences between these cultures. Each group of indigenous peoples have their own culture, lifestyles and beliefs. In Avatar the Na'vi believe that every living thing is connected while the aboriginals believed that if you took care of the land then the land would take care of you.

Also the Na'vi worship Eywa, their goddess made up of all living things while the aboriginals worship the land. The Aboriginals are nomadic and rest that land while the Na'vi stay in the same place, HomeTree. In addition, both races had a little material needs but only had the necessities. Both groups have leaders; for example, in aboriginal tribes have a Female elder whereas the Na'vi have a spiritual leader called Mo'at. In general, their lifestyles, beliefs and culture are similar but each group has their own way of looking at life. They have a similar yet a completely different culture.

At first the Aboriginals and Europeans were friendly but then things turned ugly. Captain Arthur Phillip gave orders to respect the Aboriginals but still took some prisoner. The Europeans brought with them from England diseases which killed off many Aboriginals but also brought gifts with them to give to the Aboriginals. Europeans started stealing from the Aboriginals and many in return to their treatment, Aboriginals, such as Pemulwuy of the Bidjigal clan, fought guerrilla wars against the Europeans. In addition the

Europeans didn't think of the Aboriginals as people because they didn't have a "god".

In the eyes of a European the aboriginals didn't have a proper system of law or a belief system. Therefore they were not people. In Avatar the Na'vi are seen as savages and are as well not seen as people. As Colonel Quattritch said "Look, Sully, I want you to learn this savages from the inside, I want you to gain their trust." Both groups weren't seen as people they were seen as something close to animal. The Na'vi and the Aboriginals have slightly different views on the land "She said all energy is only borrowed, and one day you have to give it back." This sentence is Jake describing the Na'vi connection to the land.

He also describes how that all living things are connected by a "network of energy flowing through all living things". The Na'vi also call the animals their brothers and say thank you to them when they kill them to eat. To the Na'vi it is a bad thing to kill an animal without the intention of using it for anything. The Aboriginals perspective differs slightly from that of the Na'vi. The Aboriginals believe that if you take care of the land then the land will take care of you. Their main reason for being nomadic is so that they can rest the land so that when they go back to that area it will be alive with their necessities.

Also if they kill something, a kangaroo for example, they will use everything they can and create minimal waste. They will eat the kangaroo meat and then use the fur to make a coat or a blanket and they might use the bones as firewood or carve them into weapons. To both groups everything is a part

of your family. Both invaders had reasons behind the invasion and both groups had reactions. The Europeans wanted to use the land to dispose of their convicts whereas the Westerners in Avatar wanted the small rock contained in the ground under HomeTree, called unobtainium, which sells for 20 million dollars per kilogram.

The Aboriginals tried to teach the Europeans their ways but quickly learnt that the Europeans weren't going to learn. The Na'vi in Avatar also do this. The Na'vi however take another student, Jake. After that each group ignored the invaders and tried to stay clear of them. After the invasion each group turns to warfare to solve their problems and mainly use them in self-defence. However the Na'vi have a person who has come from the invaders to fight with them. The aboriginal tribes didn't have that. On the other hand both groups had the advantage of knowledge on their side.

After the invasions there were wars that caused so many to die but the actual war on Pandora took much less time than fights between the Aboriginals and Europeans. In addition the Europeans took the aboriginal children away from their families while the "sky people" tried to blend in with the Na'vi. Parker Selfridge stated in Avatar, "Look. You're supposed to be winning the hearts and minds of the natives. Isn't that the whole point of your little puppet show? If you walk like them, you talk like them, they'll trust you. We build them a school, teach them English.

But after - how many years - the relations with the indigenous are only getting worse." This sentence is about the Westerners reaction to the invasion. It is about how the Westerners are trying to blend in. what they

want most is the Unobtanium and are prepared to do anything to get it as Selfridge says in this statement : “ Killing the indigenous looks bad, but there’s one thing shareholders hate more than bad press — and that’s a bad quarterly statement. ” They are more worried about money rather than the lives of others.

In conclusion, the Na’vi in Avatar and the Aboriginal peoples have had similar circumstances and have similar views but their stories ended differently. The conflicts between the Aboriginal peoples and the Europeans lasted over a hundred years while the conflicts between the Na’vi and the Westerners seemed to last a matter of months. In addition the Aboriginal peoples didn’t have a person from the invading side come fight with them. However conditions for the Aboriginal peoples have improved- with the reconciliation by Kevin Rudd in 2008- and are still improving. They are similar yet insanely different.