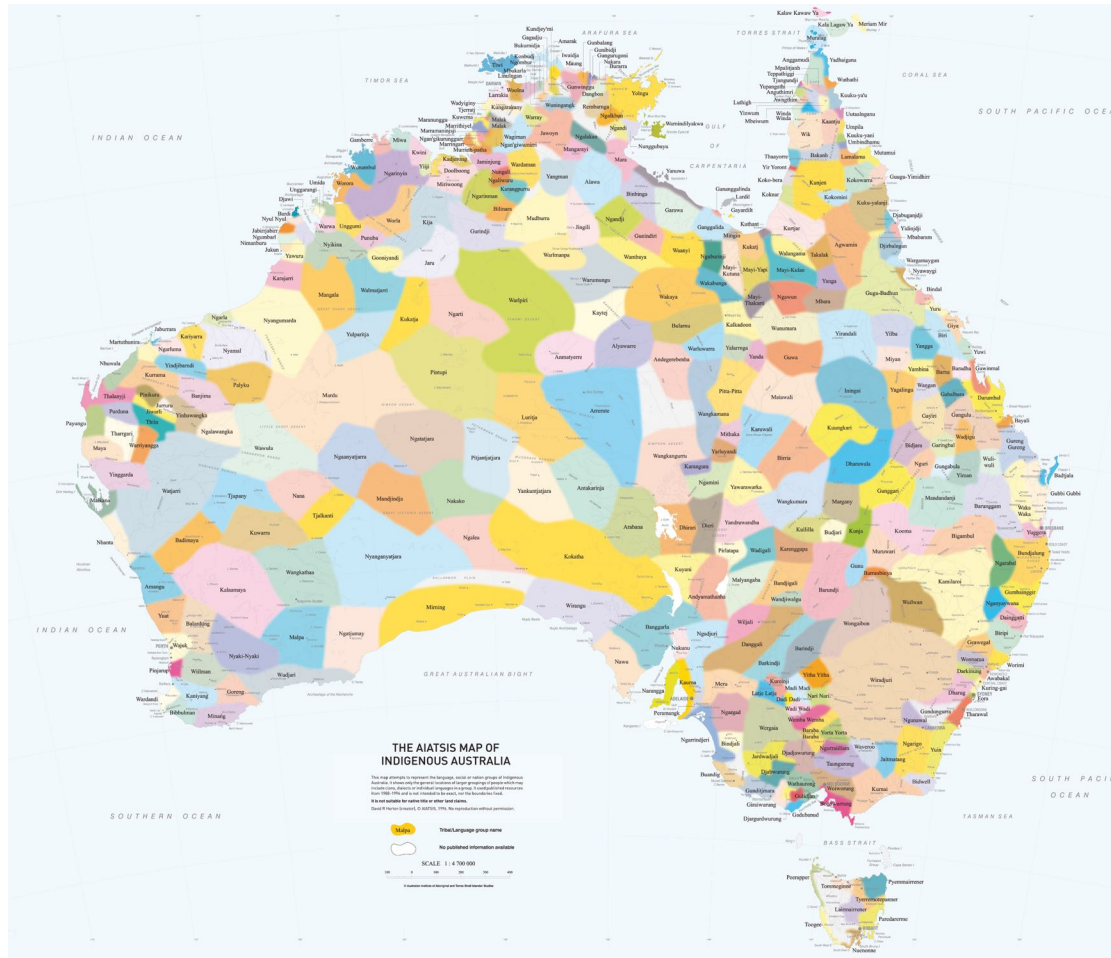


Lesson 10 – Resource Sheet 2

Australia's Indigenous Languages



Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/>

There are an estimated 290–363 Australian Indigenous languages belonging to an estimated twenty-eight language families. At the beginning of the 21st Century fewer than 150 Aboriginal languages remain in daily use, and most of these are considered endangered. The distribution of languages across the continent tells us a lot about the distribution of Indigenous Australia before 1788. Unlike, today's population distribution, which is concentrated on the continent's coastal fringe, Indigenous Australians were spread out across the Australian mainland.