Reading a text

Read this **text**, then answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Voice of Nature

An Aboriginal myth from southern Australia relates how, in the beginning, the voice of the Ancestor spoke each day from a great gum tree, and the tribe gathered around to listen. But as time went by the people grew weary of hearing his words of wisdom. One by one they turned their backs on the voice to pursue their own pleasures, and a vast silence settled over the whole of the land and the sea. There was no wind and the tides were still, no birds sang, and the earth seemed to be dying.

The tribe soon wearied of the pleasures of their own making and began to be afraid and lonely. They returned to the great tree again and again, hoping to hear the words that would ease their misery. And one day the voice of their Ancestor spoke again.

He told them it was the last time his voice would be heard, but that he would give them a sign. The great tree split open, a huge tongue of light came down into its trunk, and then it closed up again.

Since that time the Aboriginals have known that the voice of their Ancestor exists in all things, and speaks to them through every part of nature.

From *Dreamtime Stories* [illegible]

Why did the tribe traditionally gather around the great gum tree?

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_____

Why did the people abandon this custom (stop going to the tree)?

_____

_____

What happened to the natural world when the people broke this tradition?

_____

_____

What feelings made the people return to the tree?

_____

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