Activity worksheet

Your task is to locate a website that provides information about Indigenous Australian cultures and histories and evaluate that site for user-friendliness, clarity of organisation, functionality and reliability. Complete this critique of the site you’ve chosen.

What is the name of the website? Write it here: ________________________________________________________________

Which web browser are you using? ________________________________________________________________

What is the URL of the splash page? http://_______________________________________________________________________

Go to the splash page (home page) of the website, then work through these questions about that page. Circle YES or NO to answer.

Does the page take a long time to load?    YES    NO

Do images increase the information’s usefulness?    YES    NO

Are there any spelling errors on the page?  YES    NO

Is there text on the page?  YES    NO

Are there headings organising the text? YES    NO

Are there subheadings on the page?  YES    NO

Do they help the user find what they need?  YES    NO

Is the author’s name displayed on the page?  YES    NO

Is there a contact e-mail address included?  YES    NO

Is there a ‘last updated’ notice on the page?  YES    NO

Was the page updated fairly recently? YES    NO

Are there any advertisements on the page?  YES    NO

Are there any elements that are distracting?  YES    NO

Do the ads look legitimate to you? YES    NO

Are there any pop-ups asking you not to leave? YES    NO

Go to the first supporting page of the website, then work through these questions about it.

Is there a link back to the home page? YES    NO

Are the links clearly visible and labelled? YES    NO

Are there images on the page?  YES    NO

Are there audio elements on this page? YES    NO

Does the page title match the content? YES    NO

Did this page lead you to other info sources? YES    NO

Go to the second supporting page of the website, then work through these questions about it.

Is there a link back to the home page? YES    NO

Are the links clearly visible and labelled? YES    NO

Are there images on the page?  YES    NO

Are there audio elements on this page? YES    NO

Does the page title match the content? YES    NO

Did this page lead you to other info sources? YES    NO

Go back to the splash page and work through these questions.

Is the content presented as factual? YES    NO

If so, can the facts be verified as truthful? YES    NO

Did the composer rely on primary sources?  YES    NO

Can we confirm reliability, truth and validity? YES    NO

Is the material internally consistent? YES    NO

Are there leaps in logic present?  YES    NO

Is a list of printed sources included? YES    NO

Does the information appear biased? YES    NO

Does the presentation look professional? YES    NO

Are any video links included? YES    NO

Does the page rely on creating a mood? YES    NO

Is there a site map on the website? YES    NO

Is there a subscription offer? YES    NO

Is there an ‘Unsubscribe’ option offered? YES    NO

Are there any ‘click-bait’* elements? YES    NO

If there is a site map, is it accurate? YES    NO

*Click-bait elements are links that attempt to entice users to click on them in order that the hosts can persuade people to buy something or subscribe, to harvest email addresses or to perpetrate hoaxes or phishing scams (for people’s credit card or identity details).

Would you use this site as a reliable source of information? YES    NO

Explain your answer: ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________