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Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.10

The Nasca lines are enormous drawings on the ground, in the Nasca desert in southern Peru. They are on a huge scale – the biggest of the drawings is about 200 metres across. Most of the lines are geometric shapes, but about seventy are animal shapes such as a spider, different types of birds, a monkey, and a dog. There are human figures as well. Altogether there are hundreds of these drawings and they cover an area of about 500 square kilometres. The lines date from a period starting about 2,000 years ago. Basically, the marks on the ground were made by moving the reddish brown stones that cover the desert and revealing the white ground underneath. You can still see the stones along the edges of the lines.