

Year 7 Aboriginal – Knowledge organiser Autumn Term

Unit 1 Aboriginal Art

Within this unit students are given the opportunity to explore and understand the artwork of the Aboriginal culture. They will learn about the various symbols within their artwork, x-ray animals and spiritual beliefs. Pupils will learn that the Aboriginal people believe that the earth to be the mother of all things. The dreamtime is the core of their beliefs where they believe that the entire world was made by their ancestors. Australian Aboriginal people had two traditional forms of communication. These were oral storytelling and song as well as visual communication through drawing, painting and the use of ceremonial design. There was no written language, however for many survival depended on the ability to remember where food and water sources could be found at different times of the year. Aboriginal artists often paint maps of country showing important landmarks. They often use an aerial perspective even when they have never been in a plane. The earliest Indigenous art was paintings or engravings on the walls of rock shelters and caves which is called rock art. Red ochre was being used for painting at least **30,000** years ago in central Australia.

For this project pupils will focus on line, pattern and colour, where they will produce a decorative print based on symbols and x-ray animals for a final outcome. Annotation will be creatively applied to their work. Pupils work will be highly decorated and sketchbook work will provide reference for their final outcome of a polystyrene print and a ceramic boomerang.

During the project all pupils will

- Develop an understanding of artists/cultures inspired by the topic studied
- Gain experience of basic tools and techniques experimenting with various materials
- Be able to comment on their work by means of oral and written statements
- Use appropriate tools safely
- Take part in assessment for learning, including self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher assessment



Aboriginal Art



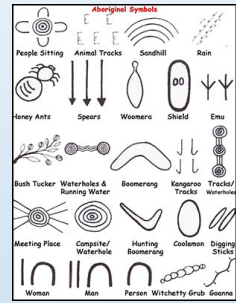
Australia



Aboriginal Australians have lived on the continent for over 50,000 years. Today, there are around 250 distinct language groups spread throughout Australia.

The Aboriginal Flag is divided horizontally into equal halves of black (top) and red (bottom), with a yellow circle in the centre. The black symbolises Aboriginal people. The yellow represents the sun, the constant re-newer of life. Red depicts the earth and peoples' relationship to the land.

There is no written language for Australian Aboriginal People so in order to convey their important cultural stories through the generations it is portrayed by symbols/icons through their artwork.



Aboriginal art on canvas and board only began 40 years ago. In 1971, Geoffrey Bardon was working with Aboriginal children in Papunya, noticed the Aboriginal men, while telling stories to others, were drawing symbols in the sand. He encouraged them to put these stories down on board and canvas, and there began the **Aboriginal art movement**. Since then, Australian Aboriginal Art has been tagged the most exciting contemporary art form of the 20th Century.

Aboriginal art is the name given to the art made by the native people of Australia. As well as rock paintings, it includes sand painting, rock and wood carving, and paintings on leaves.

Witchetty grubs are an important food and nutritious snack when living in the bush. Acting as a rich source of protein, it has been found that '10 witchetty grubs are sufficient to provide the daily needs of an adult'.

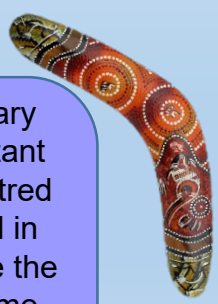


Dots were used to hide secret information, this began when the Aboriginal people became concerned that white man would be able to see and understand their sacred and private knowledge. The dots were used to obscure the secret iconography (symbols) underneath. This has morphed into the classical style, typified by artworks from the Pintupi tribe.



A large proportion of contemporary Aboriginal art is based on important ancient stories and symbols centred on 'the Dreamtime' – the period in which Indigenous people believe the world was created. The Dreamtime stories are up to and possibly even exceeding 50,000 years old, and have been handed down through the generations for all those years.

Of the 250 remaining tribes different regions have different artistic styles and use different artistic media today. Traditional Aboriginal artists cannot paint a story that does not belong to them through family heritage.



The **Aboriginal boomerang** is a projectile weapon used by **aboriginals** for fighting and hunting. A **Boomerang** can kill you. Used in warfare the high speed of the end of a rotating **boomerang** can puncture a skull or break bones leading to death.

The "X-ray" tradition in Aboriginal art is thought to have developed around **2000 B.C.** and continues to the present day. As its name implies, the X-ray style depicts animals or human figures in which the internal organs and bone structures are clearly visible.

Native Australian– First people to settle in Australia.

Dreamtime– The ancient time of the creation of all things by sacred ancestors, whose spirits continue into the present

Spiritual – In general, it includes a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves, and it typically involves a search for meaning in life.

Tribal - A group or community with similar ancestors, customs and traditions.

Witchetty grubs - Witchetty grubs are also known as witjuti grubs. The term witchetty grub is used for large white larvae of moths that chew through wood and eat roots or sap of certain trees and plants.

Digideroo - Believed to be one of the world's oldest instruments, The didgeridoo is a wind instrument made from hollow wood. The first didgeridoos, played by aboriginal peoples in northern Australia an estimated 40,000 years ago.

Aerial view - Aerial View, also known as a bird's eye view. This is the viewpoint seen from above looking down.

Symbolism - There is no written language for Australian Aboriginal People so in order to convey their important cultural stories through the generations it is portrayed by symbols/icons through their artwork.

X-ray - X-ray style depicts animals or human figures in which the internal organs and bone structures are clearly visible.

Dot-s Dots were used to obscure sacred designs and as a background infill.

Sacred - An Australian Aboriginal sacred site is a place deemed significant and meaningful by Aboriginal Australians based on their beliefs.

Ancestors - A person related to you who lived a long time ago

Artwork

The highest priced Aboriginal Artworks so far were painted by Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri for the work 'Warlugulong' which sold in 2007 to the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) for a sum of \$2.4 million dollars. The record for an indigenous artwork painted by a woman (and the record for any female Australian artist), was achieved by Emily Kame Kngwarreye's work 'Earth's Creation' which sold in 2017 for \$2.1 million.

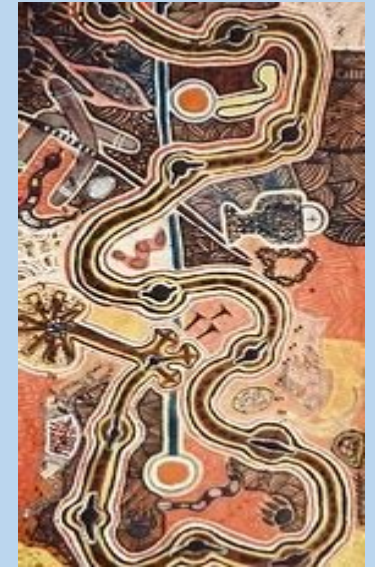


Emily Kame Kngwarreye'

X-ray animals



Aerial view



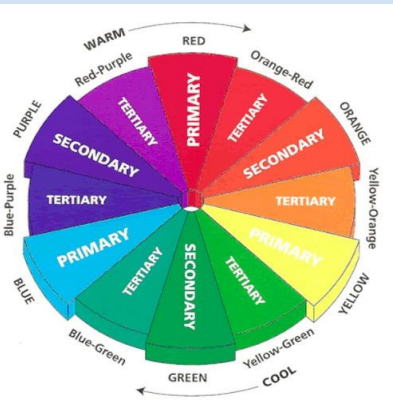
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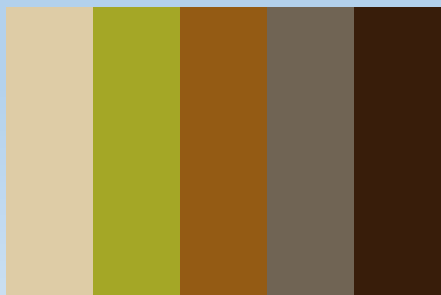
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Printing

Printing is the process of making images that can be transferred onto other surfaces. It can be used to make one or more identical images or to create repeating patterns on papers and textiles.



Earth tones are typically used in Aboriginal artwork



Polystyrene printing also known as press printing is when you **engrave** into a printing block that you then use to **press onto paper** and make a **print**. The lines or shapes you carve into the printing block will not have ink on them, so will not show up on your paper. Instead, the print will reveal the parts you don't draw, because they come into contact with the ink.



The sacred Aboriginal colours, said to be given to the Aborigines during the Dreamtime, are Black, Red, Yellow and White.

Black represents the earth, marking the campfires of the dreamtime ancestors.

Red represents fire, energy and blood.

Yellow represents water.

White represents the sky and stars, which are filled with the Aborigines ancestors who returned to the sky after creating the earth.



Things you will need

- Polystyrene
- Water-based printing ink
- An apron
- Something to roll the paint or ink onto – a paint tray, a flat, plastic board, or a glass tile
- A sharp pencil or a ballpoint pen.
- A roller
- Paper or card
- Clean roller to press onto the polystyrene
- Newspaper to cover your work area

Aboriginal tribes would typically use ochre or iron clay pigments to make **colours** like yellow, brown and red for their paints, and charcoal to make black. The paintings were made on rock walls, on skin and for tribal purposes.

How to create a polystyrene print