



ABORIGINAL ART

Read the PowerPoint
and

Complete the tasks

Aboriginal Arts

Aboriginal art is an ancient art form. It is also one of the oldest surviving art forms in the world. Aboriginal art uses symbols and signs to narrate the origin of the universe.

Aborigines are natives of Australia. They have their own culture and traditions and have a continuous history spanning at least 50,000 years. Have you heard of a boomerang? A boomerang and another object known as didgeridoo are associated with the Aborigines. While boomerang is used for hunting, didgeridoo is a woodwind musical instrument.

Let us take a look at the facts on Aboriginal art.

The symbols are used in Aboriginal art to tell stories of the world and pass on tales of the past.



Aboriginal Arts

The art work of Aborigines is known as Aboriginal art.

1. Aboriginal art has existed for many thousands of years. Some of the rock carvings and aboriginal paintings are 30,000 years old. These painting and carvings narrate the stories of the painter or sculptor.
2. A Bradshaw painting is one of oldest and most popular of rock paintings. There is a legend attached with Bradshaw paintings. The Aborigines believe the birds pecked the rocks and when their beaks bled they painted the images with their tail. Rock drawing with the help of stencils was also frequently used in Aboriginal art, wherein an object was placed on the rock and paint was splashed over it.
3. Did you know bark paintings are the oldest form of Aboriginal paintings? However, not many bark paintings exist today. The reason is the natural disintegration of the bark. Aborigines used perishable materials such as carved logs and tree stumps and bark to draw and paint. Hence, only few specimens of the earlier Aboriginal art are remaining.
4. The traditional art of the Aborigines was focused on portraying and narrating the stories of the "Dreamtime", a creation myth of the Aborigines. Some Aboriginal art works depict the world around them. Kangaroos, crocodiles and kookaburras are included in these paintings. Certain paintings depict the skeleton and organs of people and animals.
5. The colours used in ancient Aboriginal art were natural shades of earth colours such as red, brown and yellow. The other colours used were white made from pipe clay and charcoal made by burning wood.



Aboriginal art



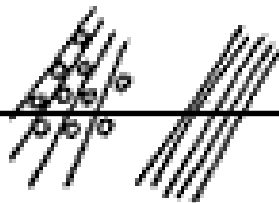
Aboriginal art



Traditional Aboriginal art symbols



Rainbow or
cloud or cliff
or sandhill



Rain



Man



Two men sitting



Fire or smoke
or water or blood



Usually means
four women sitting



Camp site, stone, well,
rock hole, breast, fire,
hole or fruit



Waterholes connected by running water



Sitting-down place



Footprints



Clouds,
boomerangs
or windbreaks



Star



Can mean water, a rainbow, a snake,
lightning, a string, a cliff, or honey store



Travelling sign with
circles as resting place

Lesson 1

Use the symbols information then annotate the image below to show where the different symbols have been used in this painting.



Lesson 2

Yalunga, The Rainbow Serpent



Read the story about this painting -

In a dark cave, far beneath the ground, lies a very deep, red lake where Yalunga lives, the Rainbow Serpent. Yalunga's home is deep within the lake itself. He only comes above ground when it rains or when the air is very damp. When he does, the rainbow serpent paints a beautifully coloured arc in the sky.

No one knows how or why he makes this. Some tribes believe he makes it to watch over their people. Those who behave well, please him; those who do not, he swallows! And those he swallows, so they say, are taken to his camp, where they live out their lives in gloomy darkness.

Anyone foolish enough to disturb Yalunga's hiding place risks making him angry enough to swallow them. Some tribes go further, claiming that all people who drown have been swallowed by the Rainbow Serpent. Not everyone believes this, though they realise that it makes a good story to warn children of the dangers that lurk in deep water.

Lesson 2 continued

THINK ABOUT THE RAINBOW SERPENT STORY. CREATE YOUR OWN STORY- PICTURE / DREAMTIME:

Think about what has been happening to you / the world recently.

You could think about staying safe in lockdown, the Coronavirus, Black lives Matter, Staying safe in the hot sun etc....

Make a picture that tells everyone a message or story.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Make a picture
- Use symbols, they could be Aboriginal ones or you can make up your own
- Use dots and blocks of colour
- You can use any media, if you use paint try round sticks, cotton buds or the wrong end of a paintbrush to make the dots.

Lesson 3

BOOMERANG DESIGN

Design your own boomerang using colours and symbols from Aboriginal Art



USE THESE IMAGES
AND SYMBOLS TO
HELP YOU WITH
YOUR DESIGN!

