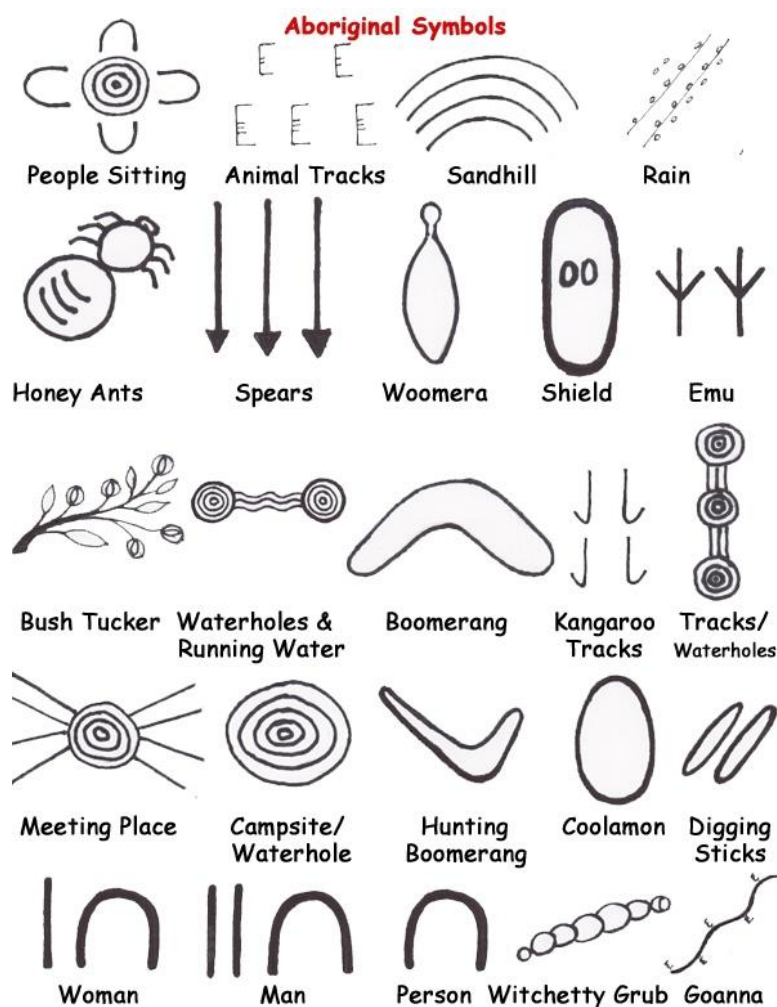


Introduction to Aboriginal Art

Aboriginal Art is one of the **oldest art forms still practised today**, stretching back tens of thousands of years! It was created by the **First Peoples of Australia**, and it's full of fascinating meaning, tradition, and beauty.

What Is Aboriginal Art?

Aboriginal Art is made up of **symbols and patterns** that were used to tell stories, share important messages, and explain rituals, specifically, they tell the story of the Dreamtime, or the creation story



These symbols helped people learn about where to find water and food, or understand special ceremonies.

Many of these artworks are **religious or ceremonial** and show a deep connection to the land, animals, and spiritual beliefs.

Each family group of aborigines has responsibility for a specific story, and each group have a storyteller who depicts the story in pictures and passes this onto the next generation.

What's in the Art?

The pictures often include **animals and natural patterns**, and every shape or symbol means something. The art was never just for decoration – it always had a story behind it!


How Was It Made?

Long ago, Aboriginal people used **natural materials** from the land around them – like bark, clay, logs, rocks, trees, and even burnt sticks. They painted using **earth colours** such as reds, browns, yellows, and white, made from **ochres and soil** found in nature.



Dotting and Movement

You'll notice that the **background is never blank**. Artists use **dots, lines, patterns, and hatching** all over the canvas to create a sense of **movement and life**. This makes the artworks feel alive, like the land itself.

 Aboriginal Art isn't just beautiful – it's a living tradition that carries **wisdom, history, and spirit** through every symbol and colour!

In the 1970's the aboriginal people were introduced to acrylic paint, by someone who paid them to paint pictures for sale in Europe. Their work is much brighter and more colourful, however, as their traditional work is sacred to the aboriginals, the work did not restrict itself to telling their ancient stories.

Here is some current aboriginal art, it combines elements of traditional painting, with new stories and new colours.

