



Aboriginal Culture





The word "**aboriginal**" means "the first" or "earliest known".

The aboriginals do not identify themselves as aboriginals but recognize each other based on their clan or tribe or the sub group of their language.

Australia may well be the home of the worlds first people. Stone tools discovered in a quarry near Penrith, New South Wales, in 1971 show that humans lived in Australia at least twelve thousand years before they appeared in Europe.



Aboriginal History





The Aboriginal flag is divided horizontally into two equal halves of black (top) and red (bottom), with a yellow circle in the center.

The black symbolizes Aboriginal people and the yellow represents the sun, the constant re-newer of life. Red depicts the earth and also represents ochre, which is used by Aboriginal people in ceremonies.



Aboriginal History





It is believed that the Aborigines came over from SE Asia on canoes similar to the ones shown.



Aboriginal History





TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL MUSIC

The **Didgeridoo** has a sound that is a low-pitched drone. It has a haunting and mysterious quality that draws the listener into the history, culture and the ancient dreamtime of the Aboriginal people.

The didgeridoo is commonly considered the national instrument of Aboriginal people, and it is claimed to be the world's oldest wind instrument

Aboriginal Music





The **bullroarer** consists of a simple wooden slat, 30 to 40cm in length and 5 to 7cm wide that is whirled around in a circle on the end of a length of cord.



Traditional drum

Australia **clap sticks** are called **bimli**. These sticks are used to keep time with the playing of the didgeridoo.



Aboriginal Music



TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL ART

Dreamtime Stories:

Australian Aborigines created stories to teach others about Dreamtime-the creation. These stories taught about life, love, marriage, hunting, gathering, warfare, and death.

Storytelling, along with art, singing and dancing, was the traditional way to educate about their history, cultures, and laws.

The "Dreamtime", the mythological past, was the time when spirit ancestors had travelled throughout the land, giving it its physical form, and setting down the rules to be followed by the Aborigines.

Aboriginal Folktales





Storytellers were chosen by the Elders.

The Dreamtime stories are passed from Generation to generation-they are not owned.

It is the responsibility of the group that has the stories to pass them on to the next generation.



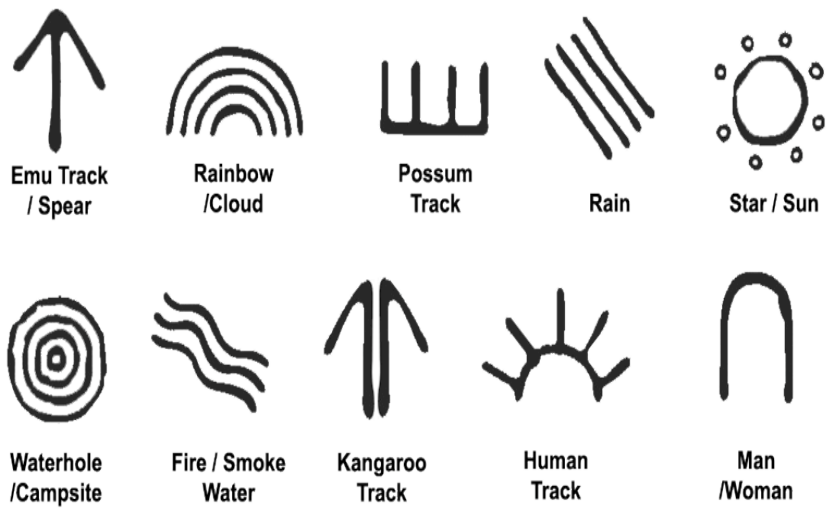
<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Stories-of-the-Dreaming>

Aboriginal Art





Dreamtime symbols



Aboriginal Folktales



The Story of Dot Painting

The indigenous people of Australia, or Aborigines, use dot painting as a form of storytelling. With dots of paint traditionally made from natural pigments, they create patterns and images of plants and animals that represent their culture's creation myths, which date back tens of thousands of years.



Aboriginal
Art





Bark painting is probably the most well known Aboriginal art form but this could be done only in areas where trees with suitable bark were available. It consists of pieces of flattened bark taken from trees such as the Stringybark. The designs seen on authentic bark paintings are traditional designs that are owned by the artist, or his or her "skin", or clan, and cannot be painted by other artists.



Bark Painting



Aboriginal Art



Aboriginal rock art is part of a tradition of painting and engraving that stretches back over 40,000 years! Many elders believe that they were created by spirits to keep records of their history.

Aboriginal Stone Painting

