

Aboriginal Art & the Dreaming — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- Aboriginal art is one of the oldest continuous art traditions in the world.
- Art is used to tell Dreaming stories and pass on knowledge and law.
- Symbols can represent waterholes, people, animal tracks and journeys.
- Styles vary greatly between different peoples and regions.

Key vocabulary

- The Dreaming — beliefs and stories about creation, law and connection.
- Symbol — a mark that stands for an idea or thing.
- Ochre — natural earth pigment used to make paint.
- Storytelling — passing on knowledge through stories, art, song and dance.

Reading the symbols

In some styles, a circle can mean a waterhole or campsite, U-shapes can show people sitting, and lines of dots can mark a journey across Country. Art is a way of mapping and remembering the land.

Learning respectfully

Some stories and symbols are sacred and belong to particular peoples. We learn about and admire Aboriginal art respectfully, and do not copy sacred designs as our own.