



Aborigines



Aborigine is Latin for
“from the beginning”.

What does this means in
relation to Australia?



Essential Question:

What is the origin and
culture of the
Aborigines?

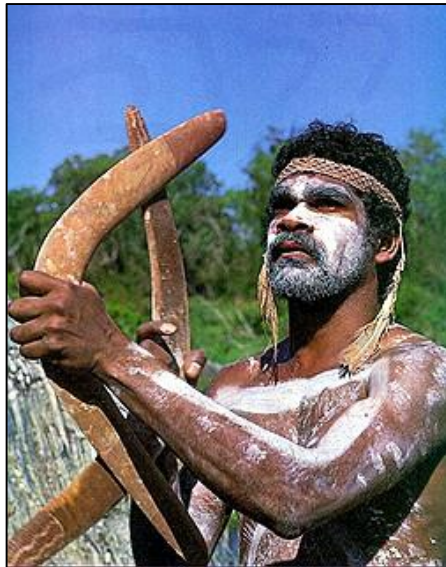


Standard:

SS6H8a. Describe the origins and culture of the Aborigines.



Aborigines were the native (indigenous) or first known inhabitants of Australia.





Origins of the Aborigines

[See the Curriculum Map]



Origins:

Aborigines are believed to have descended from Europeans and Asians who migrated south between 62,000 and 75,000 years ago.



Culture of the Aborigines



- The Aborigines were **nomadic hunters and gatherers.**
- They used boomerangs and spears for hunting
- They **engaged in extensive intergroup trade throughout the continent**



Spears



Boomerangs



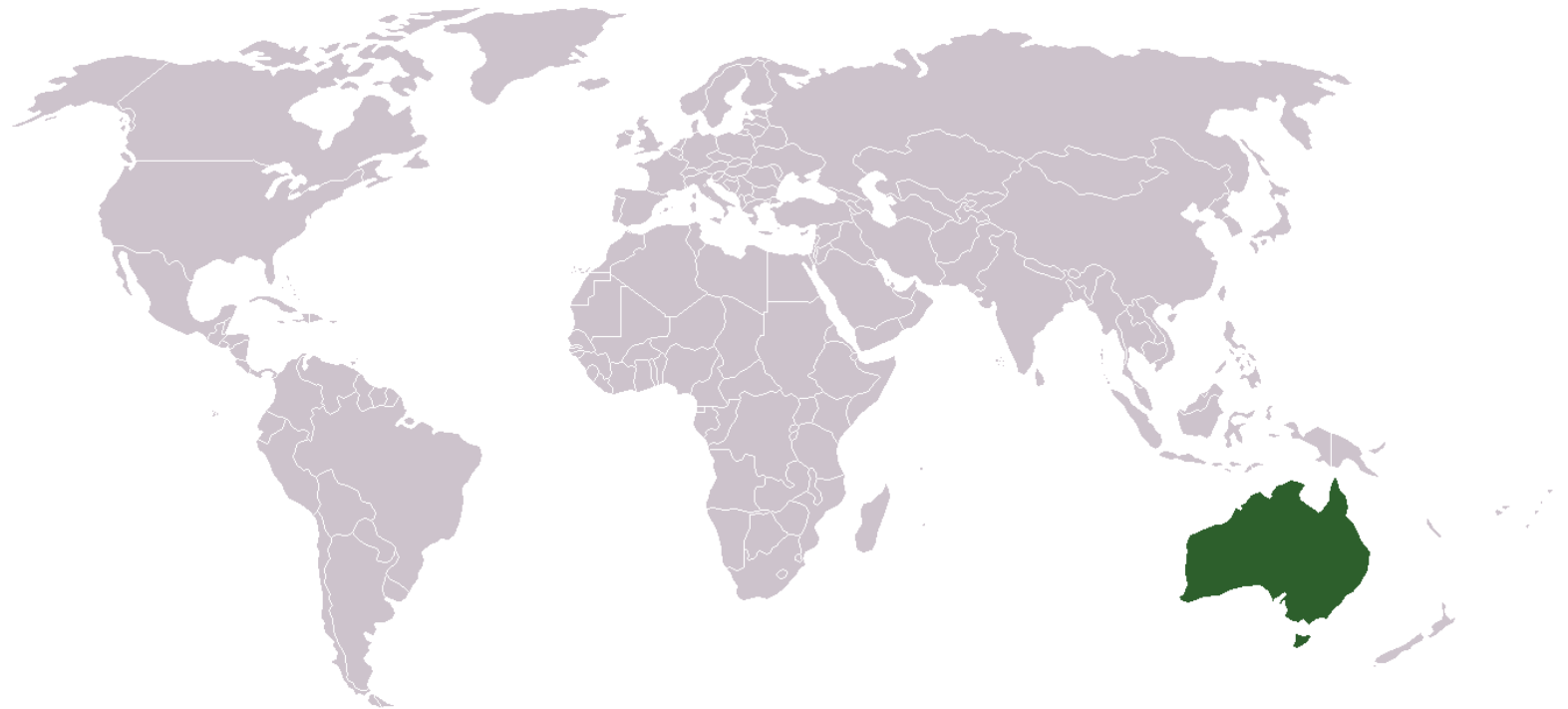
- **Aborigines were divided into many groups or tribes and spoke many languages**
- **Estimates are 500-600 distinct groups speaking about 200 different languages**



The Aborigines had no written language and, thus, relied on song and word of mouth to pass information from one generation to the next.



Because of Australia's remote location, the Aborigines were untouched by outside influences for an extensive period of time.





- **Aboriginal Australians** maintain spiritual beliefs that are closely associated with nature and oral tradition
- Spiritual beliefs are based on Dreamtime or the time long ago when they believe all things were created



- Dreamtime stories explain how animals, plants, water holes, etc. were shaped by spirit beings.
- **Aborigines** feel a very strong connection to the land and believe they are its caretakers



- Many sites are sacred, such as Uluru-Ayers Rock
- Australia has thousands of sites where rocks have been painted or engraved with human and animal shapes
- Aborigines believe these paintings were done in Dreamtime



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.

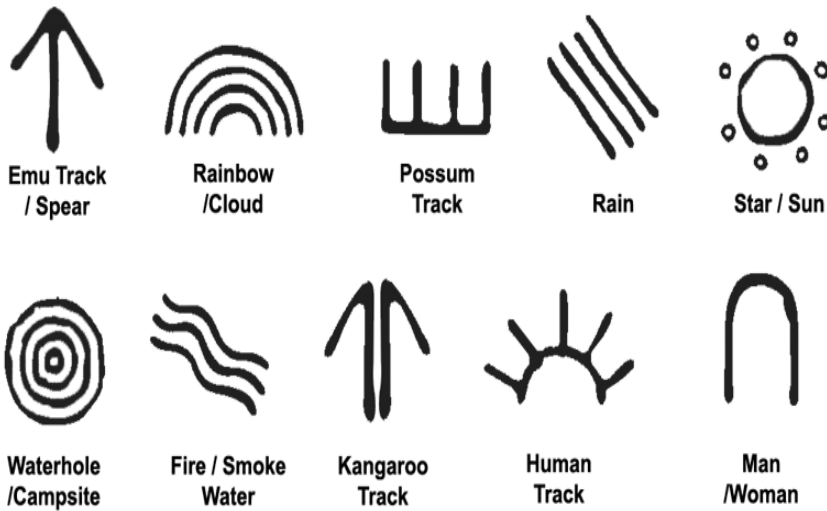
The "Dreamtime", the mythological past, was the time when spirit ancestors had travelled throughout the land, giving it its physical form, and setting down the rules to be followed by the Aborigines.

Aboriginal Folktales





Dreamtime symbols



Aboriginal Folktales

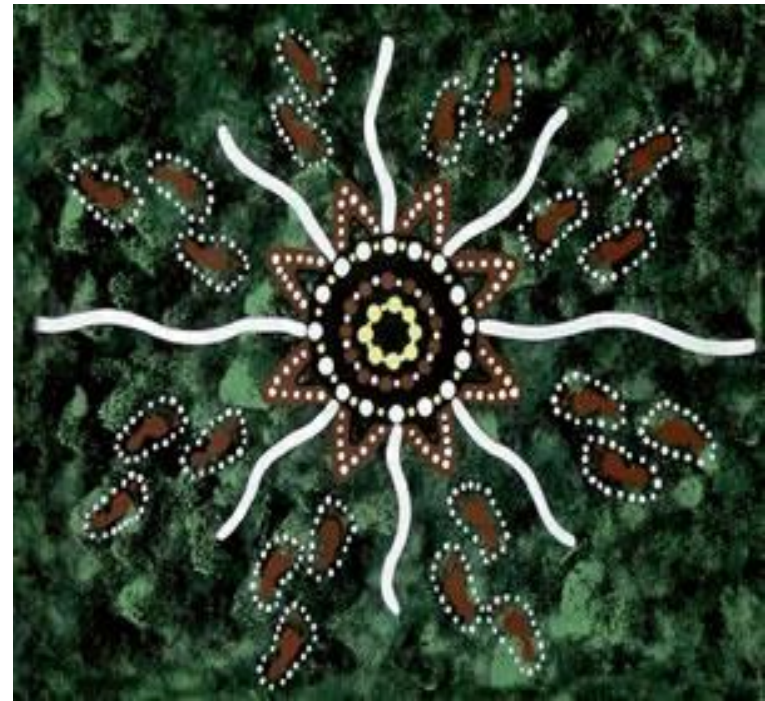


The Story of Dot Painting

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

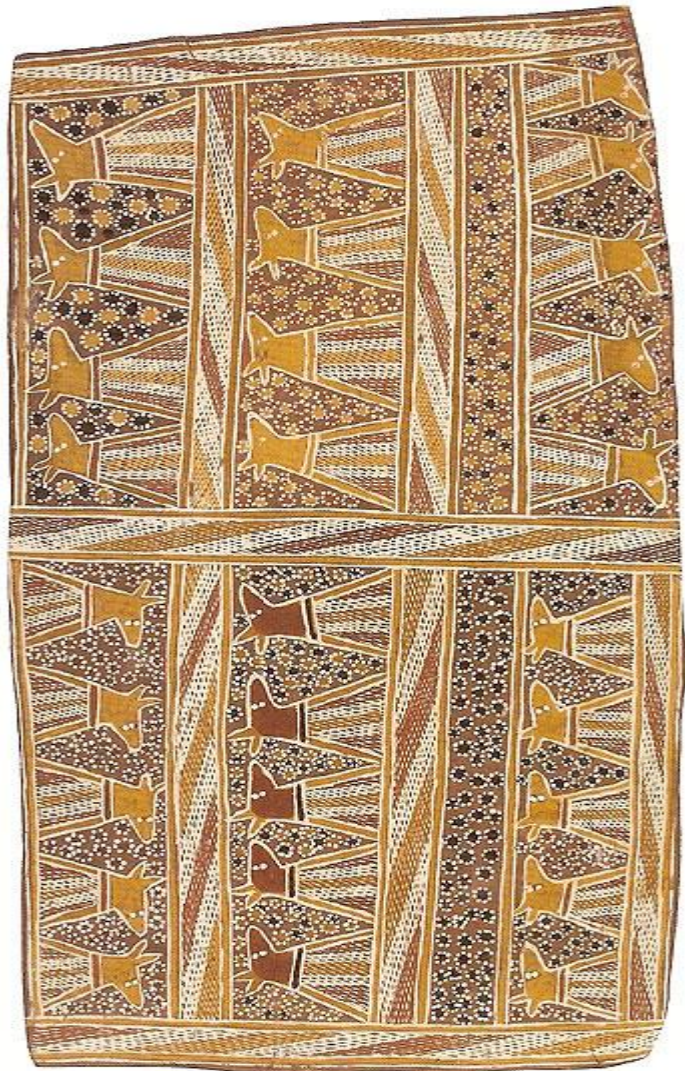




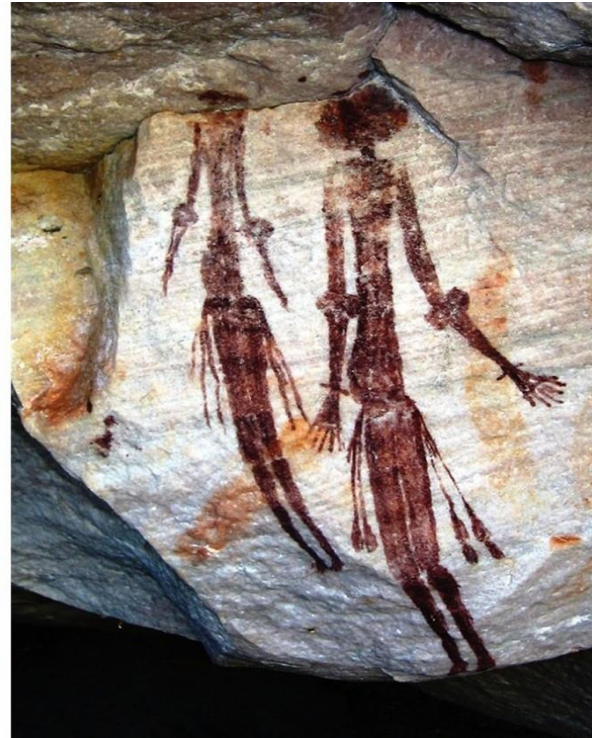
Bark painting is probably the most well known Aboriginal art form but this could be done only in areas where trees with suitable bark were available. It consists of pieces of flattened bark taken from trees such as the Stringybark. The designs seen on authentic bark paintings are traditional designs 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

