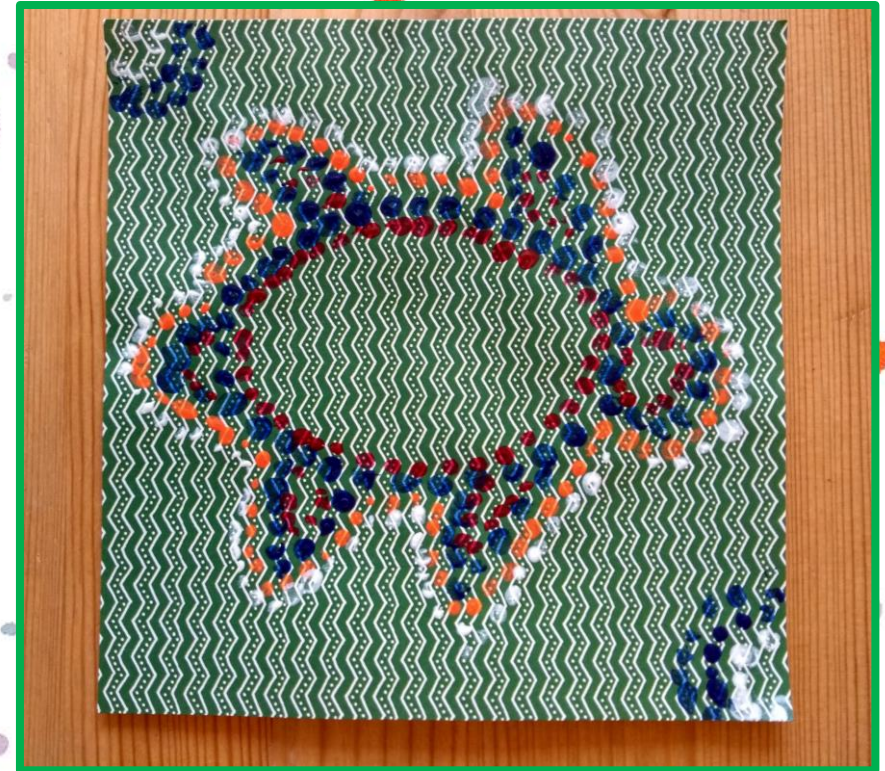


Abingdon Museum Crafting Crew

October Half-Term Activity



Aboriginal Art

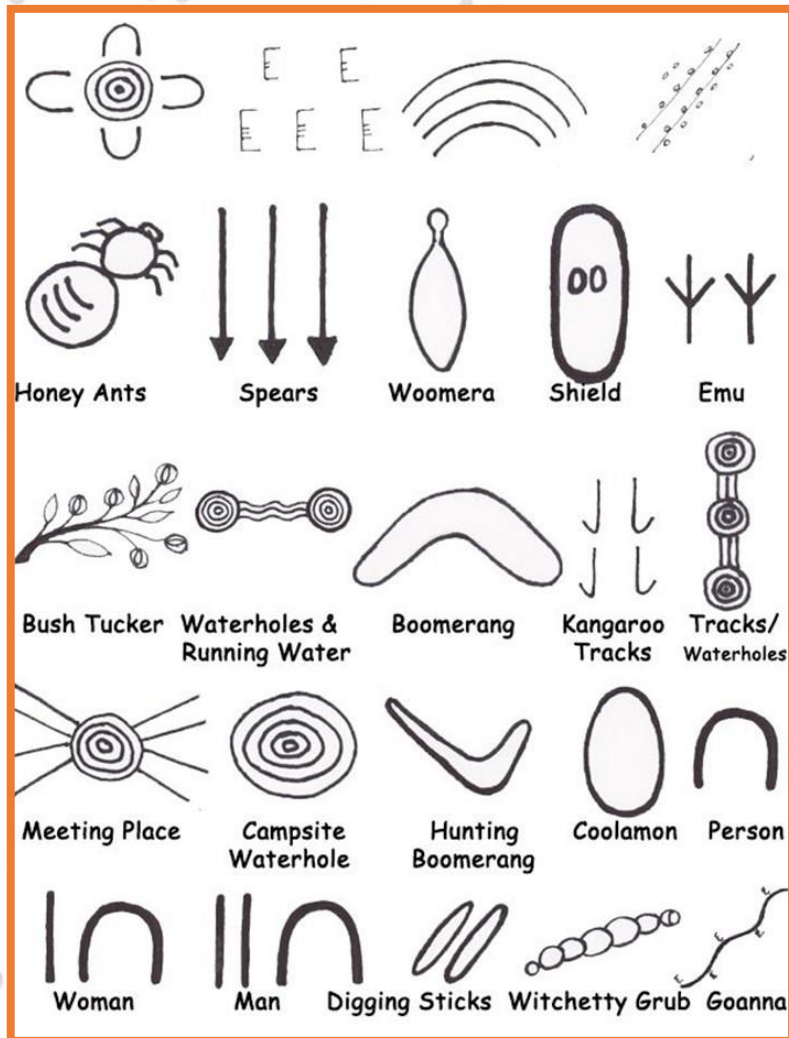
How about trying some Aboriginal Art?

Here's a bit of information to put you in the picture, but there's plenty on the internet if you want to do your own research.

- This is one of the oldest artforms which has been practised for thousands of years by the indigenous Australian people
- It essentially consists of symbols and patterns as a form of communication
- The messages are about rituals, food, animals, constellations, ceremonies or religions
- They used their fingers or sticks to create lines and dots
- They used natural materials to work with such as bark, clay, logs, rocks or burnt sticks
- The colours are often ones you find in the soils of the land such as reds, yellows and browns
- The backgrounds of these art works were never blank. There is always a continuous use of dotting, patterns, lines or hatching to create a sense of movement within the work. These works of art could be labelled as Abstract.



Below is a diagram with the symbols which were frequently used in the artworks



We had a go at doing some aboriginal artwork of our own. Each one has a name, a picture, a list of items you'll need and some instructions.

It would be great if you could send in photos of any Aboriginal Artwork of yours and we can put them onto our museum website!

1. Circular Dot Picture

You'll need coloured paper, cotton wool buds or a stick with a flat end & paint



- Decide on the image you want to create first. The animals you see in Aboriginal Art tend to be animals you find in Australia such as turtles, sharks, lizards and crocodiles to name but a few.
- Find some patterned paper. You can use plain too but we liked the patterns.
- Use some paints. You could stick to the earthy colours of the original art or use your imagination
- Use the cotton buds or flat end of a stick to make our picture using dots.

If you wanted to create a much larger picture, you could use corks and large pieces of old wallpaper

2. Dot Artwork on Stones

You'll need a smooth stone or sanded down offcut of wood and felt pens. You can varnish it if you want to put it outside but make sure you get an adult to help with that part.



- Again, spend some time deciding on the symbol or pattern you want to create
- Use the pens to draw your design

3. Rainbow Snakes

The Rainbow Snake or Serpent is one of the most famous Aboriginal Creation Stories which took place during the Dreamtime. Perhaps you could do some of your own research to find out more!

You'll need cardboard, scissors, wool, tape, glue, buttons or googly eyes and a bit of scrap material for the tongue.



- Cut out the shape of a snake using cardboard
- Choose some wool and attach one end to the back of the card using tape
- Wrap the wool around the head and then cut and attach the end using tape
- Keep going with different coloured wool until your snake is covered
- Now stick on buttons for eyes and some old scrap of felt or material for the tongue