

Activity Idea

Aboriginal Painting *Recommended for Adults*

Aboriginal art is made by indigenous people from Australia, also known as Australian Aboriginals. It is made using different art mediums, including painting on leaves, wood carving, rock carving, sculpting, ceremonial clothing, and sand painting. Aboriginal art is closely linked to religious ceremonies or rituals. It is an important part of the world's oldest continuous cultural tradition, based on totems and Aboriginal spiritual philosophy, known as the Dreaming. All the designs have a story behind them.

Symbols are used in aboriginal art, to express ideas. Many times, the symbolism changes within the same piece, and can differ between groups. Aboriginal art is a language that uses beautiful patterns to express ideas and meaning. It can date back as far as 30 to 40 thousand years.

Films:

"Dreamings: The Art of Aboriginal Australia" on Kanopy <https://tinyurl.com/y8wamwqu>

"Art + Soul Series 1: Aboriginal and Torres Art" (3 episodes) on Kanopy

<https://tinyurl.com/ybzjrr6k>

Music:

Australia - 20 Aboriginal Songs Of The Northern Territory on Hoopla <https://tinyurl.com/y9ljmbzs>

Online Resources:

History of Aboriginal Art <https://tinyurl.com/yad4ho6m>

Dreamtime Aboriginal Art Knowledge Library <https://tinyurl.com/yc9rabwr>

Aboriginal Art Symbols and their Meanings <https://tinyurl.com/yderzjea>

Aboriginal Art Styles <https://tinyurl.com/ycomcc2c>

Contemporary Aboriginal Artists <https://tinyurl.com/ydypnhnq>

Spark an Idea!

Grab some colored pencils or markers and work on the color-in activity from Australia's National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC, <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>). You can choose to color individual sheets or affix all five side by side to create a mural!









