

**Hannah Sanders**

**Aboriginal Lesson Plan**

**Title of Lesson:** Amazing Aborigines

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade

**Class Time:** 4-5 classes at 45 minutes each

**Concepts:** The concepts being taught in this lesson include:

- Painting
- Fine Motor Skills
- Biology
- Learning to appreciate diversity
- Multicultural appreciation
- Story Telling
- Music Appreciation
- Discuss Australian Aboriginal culture through a study of storytelling and dot painting.
- Define the aboriginal term Dreamtime
- Explain the lessons in or purposes for telling the stories they will hear in this lesson
- Recognize Aboriginal dot painting
- Identify some Australian animals and explain how they relate to Aboriginal art
- Create original work of art reflecting the Aboriginal style of painting

**Objectives:** The students will:

VA2MC.1 Engages in the creative process to generate and visualize ideas.

- a. Generates visual images in response to *open-ended* prompts, themes, and narratives.

VA2MC.2 Formulates personal responses.

- a. Produces multiple interpretations for an object or image.
- b. Revises artwork in response to unanticipated insights and discoveries.

VA2MC.3 Selects and uses subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning.

- a. Discusses uses of symbols and cultural icons in artwork.
- b. Mentally envisions what cannot be directly observed (e.g., depicting imaginary worlds, fantastic machines, unusual creatures).

VA2CU.2 Views and discusses selected artworks.

- c. Theorizes and suggests how culture and environment provide inspiration for creating artworks.

- VA2PR.1 Creates artworks based on personal experience and selected themes.
- a. Creates artworks to express individual ideas, thoughts, and feelings from memory, imagination, and observation.
- VA2AR.1 Discusses his or her artwork and the artwork of others.
- p. Describes how repeated colors, lines, shapes, forms, or textures can make a pattern in an artwork.

**Motivation:** In order to get the children excited about learning about Aboriginal culture, I will include the following tactics: (try to time lesson with same time they are learning about Australia)

1. Map of Australia and history
2. Food related to authentic "tucker" (gummy worms, nuts, dried fruit)
3. Video of Aboriginal story
4. Video of Aboriginal dance and music

**Vocabulary:**

- **Background-** The part of an artwork that seems the farthest away
- **Cultural style-** A style of art that shows something about the culture in which the artist lives or lived.
- **Culture-** The customs, beliefs, arts, and way of life of a group of people.
- **Design-** A plan for the arrangement of the art elements (lines, spaces, colors, shapes, forms and textures in an artwork. Also, the act of arranging the parts of an artwork.
- **Linear-** Relating to any type of line
- **Pattern-** Repeated colors, lines, shapes, or textures in an artwork. Pattern is a principal of design. Also, a plan or model to be followed when making something.
- **Ochre** is a brownish-orange colored mineral found in the ground.
- **Aboriginal-** Having existed in a region from the beginning- relating to the indigenous peoples of Australia.

**Instructional Strategies:**

**Day 1 and Day 2:**

1. Give brief history of Australia, show map.
2. Explain the Aboriginal peoples' culture.
3. Show Dot painting Powerpoint.
4. Show Aboriginal dancing video with music.
5. Pass out Aboriginal food. (Nuts, dried fruit, and gummy worms).
6. Explain upcoming lesson.
7. Begin background painting.

**BRIEF HISTORY:** History of Australia: Australia is the world's largest island and smallest continent. "Archaeological evidence suggests that humans first arrived in Australia between 65,000 and 60,000 years ago."<sup>1</sup> The people of Australia walked over from Asia on a land bridge, that was since been covered back over by the sea. After the land bridge was covered up, the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aboriginalartonline.com/index.php>

Australian people were left completely isolated for thousands of years. During that time, the Australian Aborigines have created a very unique culture. "The word "aborigine" is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as: 1. an aboriginal (the first or earliest known of its kind present in a region) inhabitant especially as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people"<sup>2</sup>

**ART:** Aborigines have been creating art for a very long time. They have some of the oldest known paintings in the world, many of which can still be seen today on the inside of caves and on the outside of large rocks. "Art is a central part of Australian life for the Australian aborigines, and takes many forms. "<sup>3</sup> Aboriginal art is based on storytelling. Traditional Aboriginal societies vary greatly across Australia but all have social structures and systems that organize life and experience and explain the universe and the place of people in it. Art is part of these systems and the making of artworks by Aboriginal artists is almost always connected to Dreamtime. The ownership of Dreamtime is determined by complex social and kinship structures and paintings can only be produced by those who are acknowledged to have the right to do so.

Dreamtime for Aborigines is not like what we think of as "dreaming" today. Dreamtime for the Aborigines is the act of thinking out or remembering stories of how Australia was created. A person does not have to be asleep to be experiencing "dreamtime." During Dreamtime, a person simply thinks about traditional stories from memory and creation to experience "Dreamtime." Aboriginal people see themselves as part of nature and believe that long ago people and animals worked together to create Australia. A quote by an Aborigine elder helps to describe Dreamtime and its how it is related to animals and the land:

*"Aboriginals see themselves as part of nature. We see all things natural as part of us. All the things on Earth we see as part human. This is told through the ideas of dreaming. By dreaming we mean the belief that long ago, these creatures started human society. These creatures, these great creatures are just as much alive today as they were in the beginning. They are everlasting and will never die. They are always part of the land and nature as we are. Our connection to all things natural is spiritual."*

Aboriginal people may believe that a certain kangaroo may be an ancestor, or that a large rock in the landscape is sacred because it once rolled through the land to create mountains and gorges. There are always stories to go along with a certain natural object or animal. These stories are thought about during Dreamtime. Dreamtime stories are then painted in the unique Australian style.

***Show Powerpoint on dot painting:***

While showing examples, explain the following:

**PAINTING:**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.aboriginalartonline.com/index.php>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aboriginalartonline.com/index.php>

Only certain elders in Aboriginal tribes are allowed to paint stories. Some stories are so important, only one person in the tribe can paint it. There are still many stories that have not been told to Europeans in order to keep them a secret. Aborigines use many different mediums to create art. A medium is any material used to make art with. For example, Aborigines paint on rocks, they blow paint through straws and over their hands to make stencils, they use different colored sand to draw on the ground, and they also paint on tree bark.

Aborigines are best known for their linear patterns and dots in their paintings. Linear means the pattern looks straight and line-like. They also use dots of color to fill in areas of their drawings. Aboriginal paintings are very lively and make lots of lines and small dots. Aborigines use natural colors found from objects in nature. One favorite color used by the aborigines is ochre. **Ochre** is a brownish-orange colored mineral found in the ground. They also use a lot of white, black, red, and brown. You will be creating a painting using these Aborigine colors. You will be picking out a template of an Australian animal that you like, painting it, and then creating a linear and dotted background for it.

### **Background painting:**

- Pass out different colored 12"x18" heavy duty construction paper. Allow the children to pick from several colors commonly used by the Aboriginal peoples. (Yellow, brown, orange, red, and black). They will be creating a painting based on the Aboriginal cultural style, or A style of art that shows something about the culture in which the artist lives or lived This will be the background, or: **Background-** The part of an artwork that seems the farthest away. Explain again how Aborigines use lots of dots, different lines, and linear designs in their backgrounds. **Design-** A plan for the arrangement of the art elements (lines, spaces, colors, shapes, forms and textures in an artwork. Also, the act of arranging the parts of an artwork. **Linear** refers to different types of lines, thick, fat, skinny, horizontal, vertical, and curvy. Q-tips will be supplied to make dots on the background. - Show a brief demo on painting.
- Modification- If this is their first time painting, supply a practice painting sheet with different lines and dots.

### **Day 3 and Day 4**

1. Show Powerpoint on Australian animals
2. Show story of how the birds got their calls.
3. They each pick out a template of an animal they want. (Dingo, kangaroo, emu, monitor lizard, or platypus)
4. *Have plenty of templates printed- or go make copies ahead of time.*
5. They color the template with markers and crayons.
6. When finished, they will glue the animal onto the dried background.

### **Modifications:**

### **Students with special needs**

1. Deaf- Use interpreter to communicate the lesson, still using PowerPoint and all other regular activities.
2. Visually Impaired- Allow child to have the laminated dot painting examples after lesson is taught for reference. Allow child to sit nearest to the PowerPoint.
3. Mentally Challenged or Physically Challenged: If motor help is needed with painting the background, I can use hand-on-hand methods. I will have the animal template pre-cut for ease. If the child would not be able to use the paint, the lesson can be modified by replacing paint with pre-cut strips and circles of paper. The paper can be glued down to create a design according to where they want the pieces to go.

**Assessment:** A condensed version of grading will always be displayed for the children to see what is expected of them. My grading rubric will be slightly more advanced, with plenty of room for notes.

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 10 points =<br>exceptional/superior | 1. Follow directions the first time they are given      |
| 9 points = above expectations       | 2. Be to class on time with required materials (pencil) |
| 7-8 points = fair/ average          | 3. Take care of ALL art materials (even your own!)      |
| 6 points = below expectations       | 4. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself. NO GUM     |
| 0-5 points = poor performance       | 5. Work quietly-be considerate of others                |
|                                     | 6. Clean up after yourself- when told to do so.         |

<b>Week Task</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Prepared and on time</b>					
<b>Respect for materials and facility</b>					
<b>Class Participation, assignments</b>					
<b>Working towards units objectives</b>					
<b>Co-operative, respectful of others</b>					
<b>Total</b>					

**Materials/Supplies:**

- 12"x18" heavy duty multi-colored construction paper
- Templates printed on computer paper
- Tempura paint
- Paint brushes
- Q-tips
- Water containers
- Paper towels
- Communal paint bins
- Markers
- Crayons
- Glue
- Scissors
- Food( gummy worms, nuts, dried fruits)
- Black Marker- to sign name

**Resources:**

- <http://www.deepspacesparkle.com/2008/11/09/aboriginal-paintings/>
- <http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/australian-aboriginal-art-and-storytelling#sect-questions>
- <http://www.aboriginalartonline.com/index.php>
- <http://australian-animals.net/>

**Recap Lesson:** Australia is a unique place with very unique culture and animals. Art is very important to the Aboriginal people. Remember that different cultures have different artistic styles, and different subjects to paint. Ask Essential Questions:

1. Who are the Aborigines?
2. What does Aborigine mean?
3. Where are the Aborigines from?
4. What are some animals found in Australia?
5. What are some colors used in Aboriginal art?
6. What are Dreamtime paintings?

Ask students to define vocabulary:

1. What are some Aboriginal designs in art?
2. What does linear mean?
3. What are some Aboriginal patterns?
4. What color is ochre?

