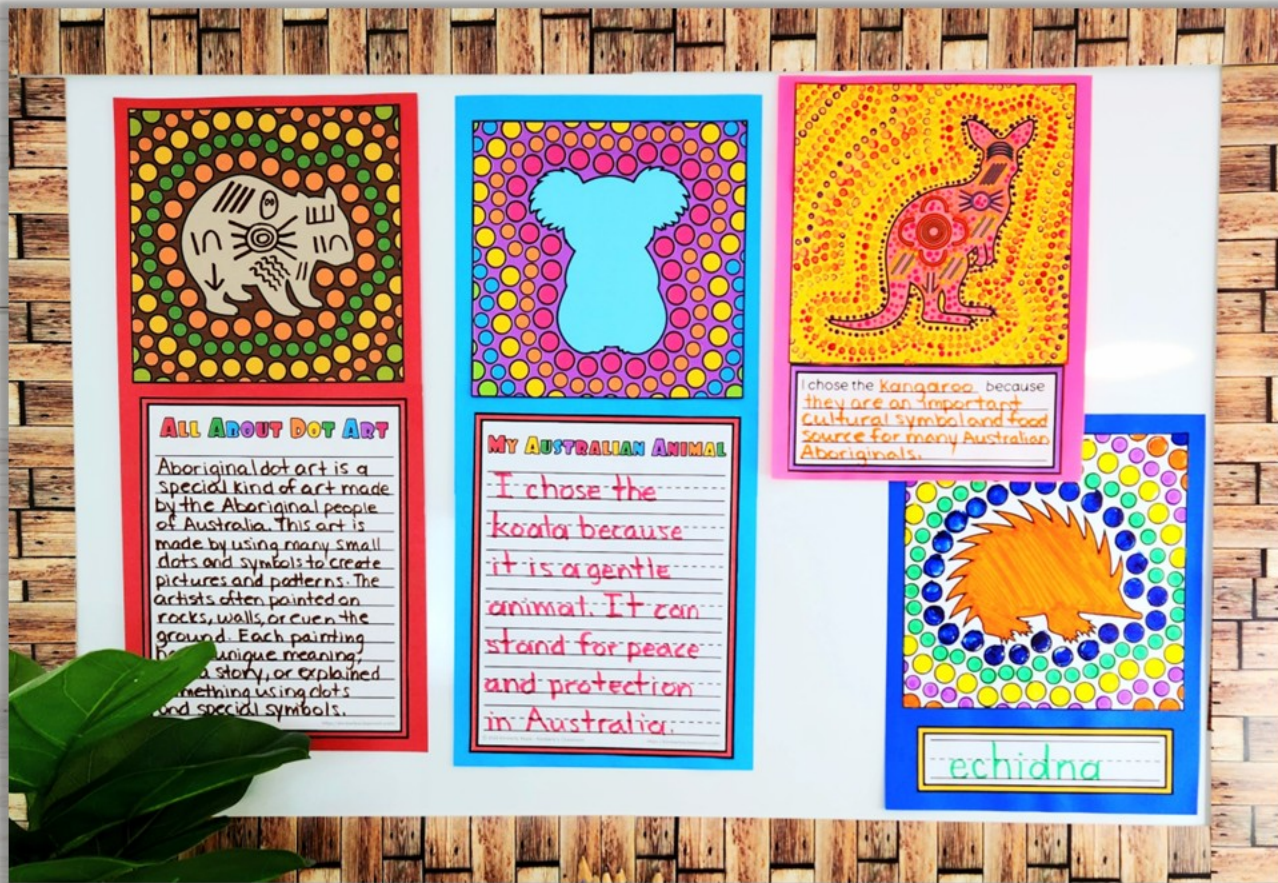


ABORIGINAL DOT ART CRAFTS!



AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL DOT ART

What is Aboriginal Dot Art?

Aboriginal Dot Art is a traditional style of painting used by many Aboriginal people of Australia. This art form uses dots, lines, circles, people, and symbols to tell stories about the land, animals, people, and Dreamtime (the Aboriginal creation stories).

Dot painting is a visual language that has been used for thousands of years!

Where Did Dot Art Come From?

Dot painting began in Central and Western Australia, especially by groups like the Pintupi people. It became widely known in the 1970s when Aboriginal artists started painting their stories using acrylic paints on canvas.

Why Do They Use Dots?

The dots have special meanings and are used to:

- Hide sacred symbols (so only certain people know the full story)
- Show movement (like animal tracks)
- Decorate and fill space in beautiful ways.

The colors often come from natural materials, like red and yellow ochre (clay), charcoal (black), and white clay.

DOT ART EXAMPLES



Springs, NT - May 29, 2019: Indigenous Australian dot art painting



Wes (Wangkajunga Aboriginal Community, Western Australia)

ABORIGINAL ART SYMBOLS

person: A person is shown with a shape that looks like an upside-down "U". This shape shows where someone has been sitting in the sand. The symbol can mean a man or a woman, depending on the story being told.

man: A man is shown with a shape that looks like an upside-down "U" and two straight lines. The "U" shape shows where a man has been sitting on the ground, and the lines stand for the spears he uses to hunt. Sometimes, the symbol also includes other lines to show things like a shield or a boomerang.

woman: A woman is shown with a shape that looks like an upside-down "U" and one straight line. The "U" shape shows where a person has been sitting, and the line stands for a digging stick. Women use digging sticks to find food like yams, carrots, and honey.

people sitting: The symbol for people sitting at several "U"-shaped figures placed around a circle stands for a campsite or waterhole. They be four people shown, or more or less. They are neat circle or in a more relaxed group, depending on the story being told.

campsite / waterhole: A waterhole or campsite with a set of circles inside each other. The circles are concentric rings. Waterholes are very important because they give people and animals a place to live. They are also special places where people come together to share stories and traditions.

ABORIGINAL ART SYMBOLS



CRAFT DIRECTIONS

Description: These crafts are inspired by traditional Australian Aboriginal dot art.

Materials:

- craft templates (included)
- cotton swabs, scratch sticks, paint brushes, dot bingo dabbers, bingo chips, or play dough markers, crayons, colored pencils, or play dough
- paint - tempera or acrylic (optional)
- Newsprint, drop cloth, or craft paper (to protect surfaces)
- construction paper (optional)
- scissors
- glue
- paper plates - to put paint on (optional)
- water cups - to rinse paint brushes (optional)
- brainstorming sheet (included, optional)
- writing projects (included, optional)

Suggestion: Print templates on cardstock or canvas paper for extra durability when wet.

Options:

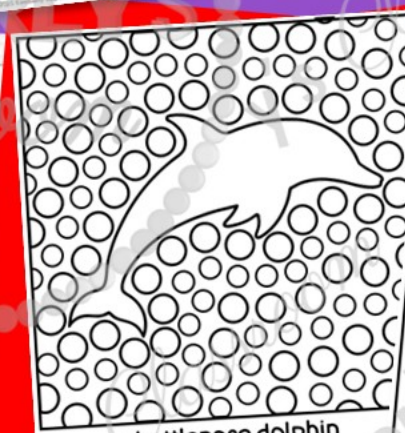
Dotting Template: Students can select an animal and fill in the dots in a specific way. Large dots for outer dots are used to distinguish between different animals.



There are several ways students can fill in the template. Here are a few examples:



Students can also use the Aboriginal symbols as a reference if drawing symbols on the template.



bottlenose dolphin

Directions: Paint, color, or dab the picture with paint to create dot art. Then, cut out the picture along the square border.



bottlenose dolphin

Directions: Paint or color the picture using dot art. Then, cut out the picture along the square border above.

Cultural information, symbol guide, and craft directions included!



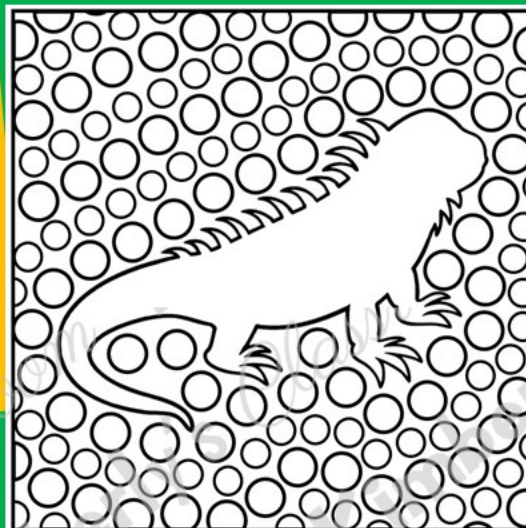
brolga

Directions: Paint, color, or dab the picture to create dot art. Then, cut out the picture along the square border. ✂️

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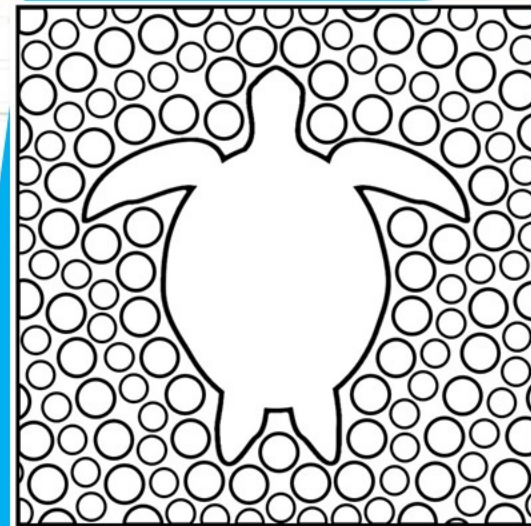
goanna

Directions: Paint, color, or dab the picture to create dot art. Then, cut out the picture along the square border. ✂️

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turtle

Directions: Paint, color, or dab the picture to create dot art. Then, cut out the picture along the square border. ✂️

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Students can choose 20 animal templates!



Differentiated writing projects!

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L2

DOT ART

Aboriginal dot art is a special kind of art made by the Aboriginal people of Australia. This art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures and patterns. The artists often painted on rocks, walls, or even the ground. Each painting was unique and told a different story.

1) Who made dot art?

☐ Australian Aboriginals ☐ Native Americans

2) What might be seen in dot art?

☐ computers ☐ symbols

3) Where did the dot artists paint?

☐ on rocks ☐ on the ground

☐ on walls ☐ all of these

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L3

DOT ART

Aboriginal dot art is a special kind of art made by the Aboriginal people of Australia. This art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures and patterns. The artists often painted on rocks, walls, or even the ground. Each painting had a meaning, told a story, or explained something.

1) Who made dot art?

2) What might be seen in dot art?

3) Where did traditional dot artists paint?

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L1

DOT ART

Aboriginal dot art is a special kind of art made by the Aboriginal people of Australia. This art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures and patterns. The artists often painted on rocks, walls, or even the ground. Each painting was unique and told a different story.

1) Dot art was made by Australian Aboriginals.

2) Dot art is made using many small black squares.

3) Dot artists painted on rocks, walls, and on the ground.

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L2

DOT ART

Aboriginal dot art is a special kind of art made by the Aboriginal people of Australia. This art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures and patterns. The artists often painted on rocks, walls, or even the ground. Each painting was unique and told a different story.

1) Dot art was made by Australian Aboriginals. ☐ true ☐ false

2) Dot art is made using many large black squares. ☐ true ☐ false

3) Symbols and patterns are often seen in dot art. ☐ true ☐ false

4) Dot artists painted on rocks, walls, and on the ground. ☐ true ☐ false

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L2

DOT ART VOCABULARY

Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.

1) Aboriginal ☐ the first people who lived in Australia a long time ago

2) symbols ☐ people who help take care of animals

3) unique ☐ pictures that stand for something else, like an idea or a word

4) traditional ☐ something that is special and not like anything else

5) boomerang ☐ something that is used every day

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L3

DOT ART VOCABULARY

Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.

1) Aboriginal ☐ the first people who lived in Australia a very long time ago

2) symbols ☐ tall, wooden artwork that tells stories

3) unique ☐ people who help take care of animals

4) concentric ☐ pictures or shapes that stand for something else, like an idea or a word

5) traditional ☐ something that is special and not like anything else

6) waterhole ☐ something that is used every day

7) boomerang ☐ circles that share the same center and get bigger as they go out

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L1

DOT ART SENTENCES

Directions: Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.

1) dot art is made by australian aboriginals

2) this art is made using many small black squares

3) artists painted on rocks and walls

Name: _____

Aboriginal Dot Art L2

DOT ART SENTENCES

Directions: Look at the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.

1) aboriginal dot art is a special kind of art made by the aboriginal people of australia this art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures and patterns the artists often painted on rocks, walls, or even the ground each painting told a unique story

2) dot art is made by the aboriginal people of australia this art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures

3) artists painted on rocks and walls

Differentiated worksheets to build confidence!

ABORIGINAL ART SYMBOLS



possum footprint: A possum footprint looks like a straight line with four small lines for its toes. Its special fifth toe is not shown. Possums are about the size of a cat and live in tree hollows. They come out at night to eat near waterholes, where Aboriginal people sometimes hunt them for food.



kangaroo footprint: A kangaroo is shown with lines and little marks pointing out, showing the tracks made by its back legs. Kangaroos are often part of hunting and Dreaming stories. Aboriginal people use every part of the kangaroo.



witchetty grub: A witchetty grub is shown as a simple drawing of the larva, often with its body parts and head clearly marked. These grubs are sometimes painted to show where they can be found. Knowing this helps people survive in the bush by finding food.



yam plant: A bush yam is shown as a round shape with lines for its roots. The yam is an important bush food. Its leaves can also be used as medicine and are full of vitamins and nutrients. Because it grows back every year, the yam is a symbol of health and plenty in Aboriginal ceremonies.



moon: The moon can be shown as a crescent or a full circle, depending on its shape in the sky. Aboriginal people have a deep understanding of the stars and sky, passed down through stories and songs. In many groups, the moon is seen as a man and the sun as a woman.

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ABORIGINAL ART SYMBOLS



witchetty grub



honey ant



honey ant site



yam plant



rain



clouds / rainbow



moon



star



shield



boomerang



meeting place



digging sticks

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PERSUASIVE BRAINSTORM

Opinion:

Reason 1:

Evidence / Details:

Reason 2:

Evidence / Details:

Reason 3:

Evidence / Details:

Conclusion:

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echidna

emu

flying fox

goanna

shark

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Name: _____

Aboriginal
Dot Art L2

DOT ART VOCABULARY

Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.

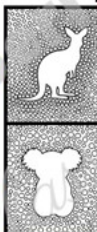
1) Aboriginal	☐ the first people who lived in Australia a long time ago ☐ tall, wooden artwork that tells stories
2) symbols	☐ people who help take care of animals ☐ pictures that stand for something else, like an idea or a word
3) unique	☐ something that is special and not like anything else ☐ something that is used every day
4) traditional	☐ something that has been done the same way for a long time ☐ a kind of robot that helps with chores
5) boomerang	☐ a long rope used for climbing ☐ a curved stick that comes back when thrown the right way

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**B&W
included!**

Name: **ANSWER KEY** - Aboriginal Dot Art L1



DOT ART

Aboriginal dot art is a special kind of art made by the Aboriginal people of Australia. This art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures and patterns. The artists often painted on rocks, walls, or even the ground.

1) Who made dot art?

- ☒ Australian Aboriginals ☐ Native Americans
☐ Indigenous People of the Arctic ☐ Indigenous People of Canada

2) What might be seen in dot art?

- ☐ computers ☒ symbols
☐ pizza ☐ pillows

3) Where did the dot artists paint?

- ☐ on rocks ☐ on the ground
☐ on walls ☒ all of these

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Name: **ANSWER KEY** - Aboriginal Dot Art L2

DOT ART SENTENCES

Directions: Look at the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.

dot art is made by the aboriginal people of australia this art is made using many small dots and symbols to create pictures

**Dot art is made by the
Aboriginal people of
Australia. This art is made
using many small dots and
symbols to create pictures.**

- ☒ I used capital letters.
☒ I used spaces.
☒ I used punctuation.



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Name: **ANSWER KEY** - Aboriginal Dot Art L3

DOT ART VOCABULARY

Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1) Aboriginal | ☒ the first people who lived in Australia a very long time ago
☐ tall, wooden artwork that tells stories |
| 2) symbols | ☐ people who help take care of animals
☒ pictures or shapes that stand for something else, like an idea or a word |
| 3) unique | ☒ something that is special and not like anything else
☐ something that is used every day |
| 4) concentric | ☒ circles that share the same center and get bigger as they go out.
☐ a type of music with a fast beat |
| 5) traditional | ☒ something that has been done the same way for a long time
☐ a kind of robot that helps with chores |
| 6) waterhole | ☐ a place where people go to ride bikes
☒ a place where animals can go to drink water |
| 7) boomerang | ☐ a long rope used for climbing
☒ a curved stick that comes back when thrown the right way |

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Answer keys included for quick and easy assessment!

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DIFFERENTIATED WRITING CRAFTS WRITING CRAFT BUNDLE!



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