

LEARN

First Nations story telling through art

Suitable for school students,
early stage 1, stage 1-3:
Visual Arts and History

30-60 MINUTES



Use this symbol sheet to create an artwork that tells a story.

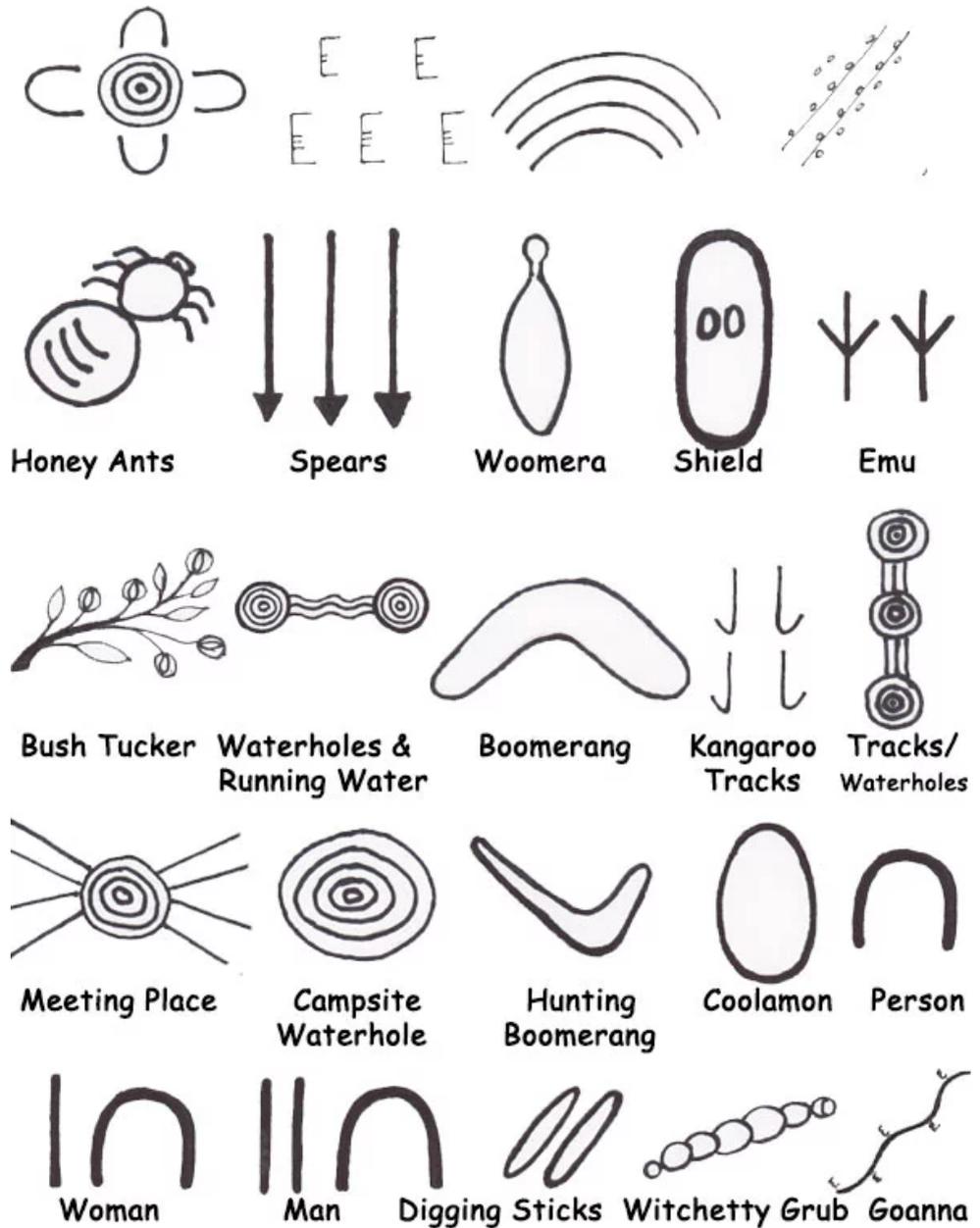
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Art paper
- Paint
- Paint brushes

Note: if you don't have paints you could use crayons, marker pens or coloured pencils.

LEARNING ACTIVITY

- 1 Look at the symbol sheet and read the meanings of each symbol.
- 2 Use the symbols to create your own artwork that tells a story.
- 3 Write out the meaning of your story on the back of your artwork.



These symbols were provided courtesy of Artlandish Aboriginal Art Gallery.

Syllabus areas: History & Visual Arts

Learning outcomes:

SUBJECT	STAGE	LEARNING OUTCOME	CONTENT
Visual Arts	Early Stage 1	VAES1.1, VAES1.2	Students explore different kinds of things and experiences in their making of artworks.
Visual Arts	Stage 1	VAS1.1, VAS1.2	Students explore different kinds of subject matter and concepts in their making of artworks.
Visual Arts	Stage 2	VAS2.3	Acknowledges that artists make artworks for different reasons and that various interpretations are possible.
Visual Arts	Stage 3	VAS3.4	Communicates about the ways in which subject matter is represented in artworks.
History	Stage 2	HT2.1, HT2.2	The importance of Country and Place to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who belong to a local area (ACHHK060).

Extension activity (Stage 2-3):

Many people think of dot paintings when they think of First Nations artwork. However, like all things, their art has evolved over time. Using the Schools Reconciliation Challenge website, research some modern First Nations artists and compare and contrast what has stayed the same and what has changed in Indigenous art over time.

www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au/art/

DID YOU KNOW?

First Nations people have lived in Australia for at least 60,000 years. Their culture is centred on their connection to 'country', which is their traditional lands. This connection shapes their values, relationships and identity. There are over 500 different First Nations groups or nations. Each of these groups have different cultures, beliefs and languages.

First Nations people do not write down their stories and history using words; instead, they pass their knowledge down through the generations through oral history and art. This is done through telling stories and painting pictures using symbols. These symbols have different meanings and when they are placed in a specific order they can tell a story. Traditionally, artworks were created using ochre paint made from grinding down rock which was painted on bark, as body paint and in rock caves. Today, artists use paints and other mediums to tell their stories through art.