



Australia's History Overview

INTRODUCTION VIDEO:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=BPAS5F4TJNW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPAS5F4TJNW)

Background

Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders were the first people living in Australia. They have lived in Australia for centuries in nomadic societies. Europeans established colonies in 1788 and took much of the land controlled by Aborigines for themselves. This, combined with weapons and disease, decimated the population of Aborigines. The Aborigines have a lot to teach us with their resilience against the British. Today, they still live in Australia's outback and continue their traditional societies.

England colonized Australia in 1788. Originally, England used Australia as a JAIL! And sent prisoners there so that they couldn't live in England anymore. You will learn more about this later...



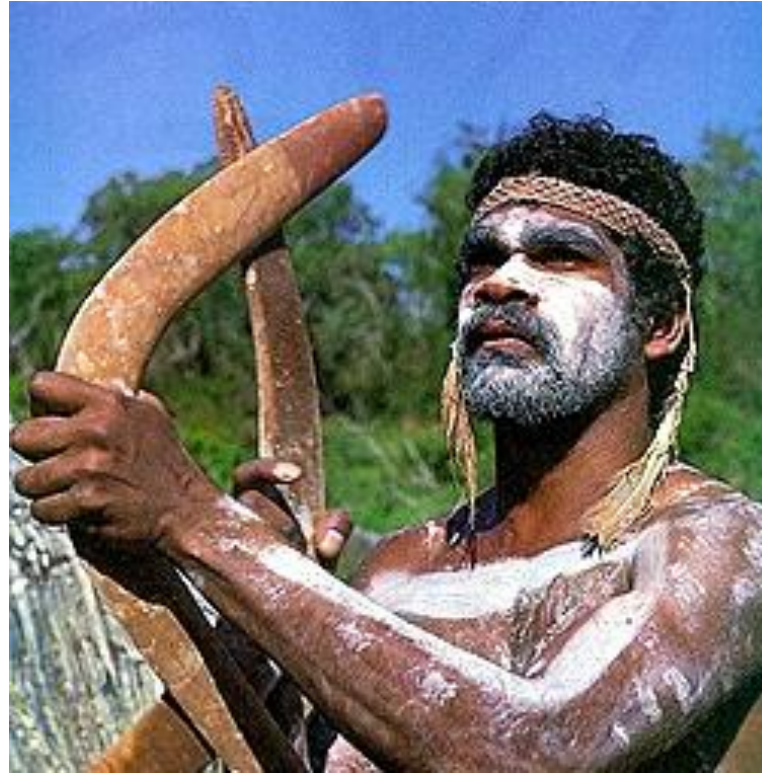
Aborigines



Aborigine is Latin for
“from the beginning”.

What does this means in
relation to Australia?

Aborigines were the native (indigenous) or first known inhabitants of Australia.





Origins:

Aborigines are believed to have descended from Europeans and Asians who migrated south between 62,000 and 75,000 years ago.



Culture of the Aborigines



Original Australian
Indigenous Culture
VIDEO

Watch the video below and notice the culture of the Aborigine people!



- The Aborigines were **nomadic hunters and gatherers**.
 - They used boomerangs and spears for hunting
-
- They **engaged in extensive intergroup trade throughout the continent**



Spears



Boomerangs



- **Aborigines were divided into many groups or tribes and spoke many languages**
-
- **Estimates are 500-600 distinct groups speaking about 200 different languages**



The Aborigines had **no written language and, thus, relied on song and word of mouth to pass information from one generation to the next.**



Because of Australia's remote location, the Aborigines were untouched by outside influences for an extensive period of time.



- **Aboriginal Australians maintain spiritual beliefs that are closely associated with nature and oral tradition**
-
- **Spiritual beliefs are based on Dreamtime or the time long ago when they believe all things were created**



- Dreamtime stories explain how animals, plants, water holes, etc. were shaped by spirit beings.
-
- **Aborigines** feel a very strong connection to the land and believe they are its caretakers



- Many sites are sacred, such as Uluru-Ayers Rock
- Australia has thousands of sites where rocks have been painted or engraved with human and animal shapes
- Aborigines believe these paintings were done in Dreamtime

TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL ART

Dreamtime Stories:

Australian Aborigines created stories to teach others about Dreamtime-the creation. These stories taught about life, love, marriage, hunting, gathering, warfare, and death.

Storytelling, along with art, singing and dancing, was the traditional way to educate about their history, cultures, and laws.

The "Dreamtime", the mythological past, was the time when spirit ancestors had travelled throughout the land, giving it its physical form, and setting down the rules to be followed by the Aborigines.





**mu Track
/ Spear**



**Rainbow
/Cloud**



**Possum
Track**



Rain



**Waterhole
/ Campsite**



**Fire / Smoke
Water**



**Kangaroo
Track**



**Human
Track**



Dreamtime symbols

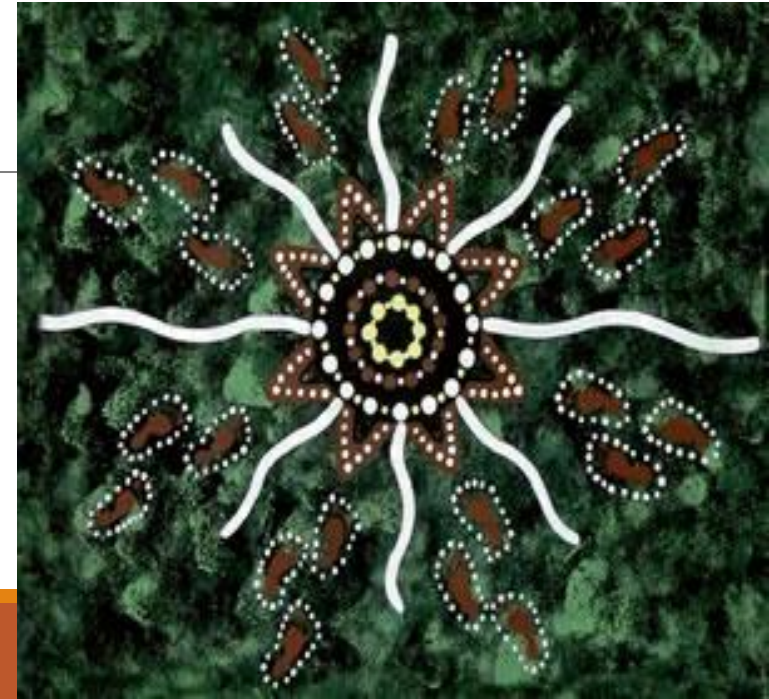


The Story of Dot Painting

The indigenous people of Australia, or Aborigines, use dot painting as a form of storytelling. With dots of paint traditionally made from natural pigments, they create patterns and images of plants and animals that represent their culture's creation myths, which date back tens of thousands of years.



Aboriginal
Art

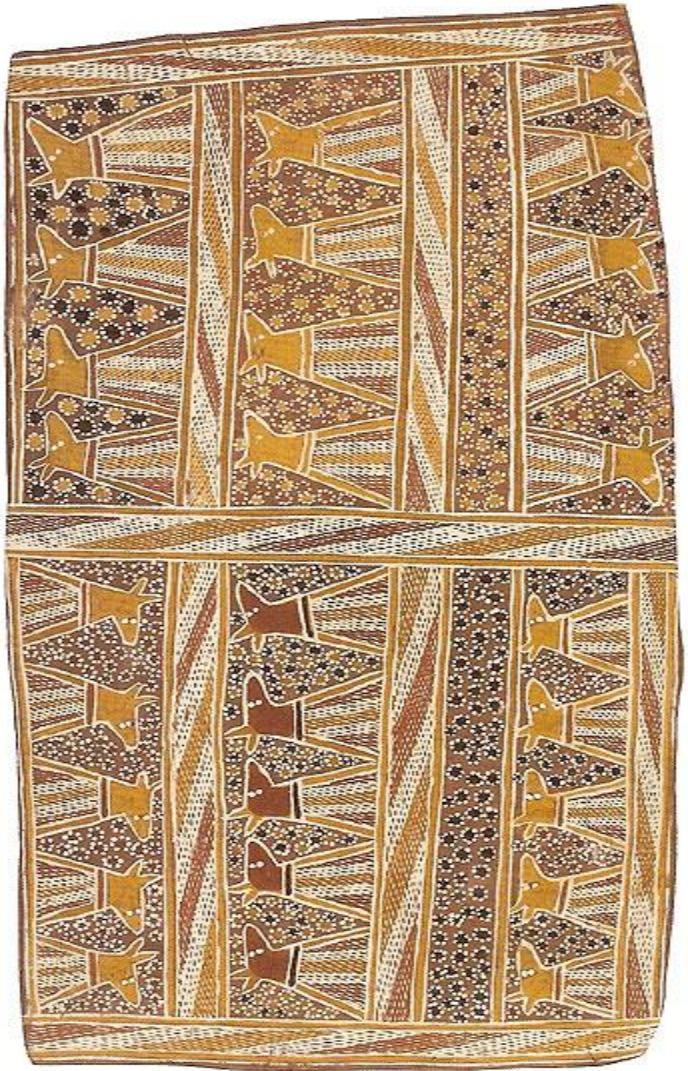




Bark painting is probably the most well known Aboriginal art form but this could be done only in areas where trees with suitable bark were available. It consists of pieces of flattened bark taken from trees such as the Stringybark. The designs seen on authentic bark paintings are traditional designs that are owned by the artist, or his or her "skin", or clan, and cannot be painted by other artists.



Bark Painting



Aboriginal Art



Aboriginal rock art is part of a tradition of painting and engraving that stretches back over 40,000 years! Many elders believe that they were created by spirits to keep records of their history.

Aboriginal Stone Painting



British Colonization of Australia

Intro Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzSI8ApHm_0

Summary:

English Captain James Cook claimed the Australian south-east coast for Britain in 1770.

Britain decided to use Australia as a penal (punishing) colony for convicts

A system of deportation had been in place for some time as a way of easing overcrowding of English jails. After the American Revolution, Britain could no longer use the colonies in North America as a place to send exiled prisoners

Summary:

Over the next several decades, more than 150,000 prisoners were transported to Australia

The Gold Rush of 1851 and the growth of sheep farming brought more and more free settlers to Australia

Summary:

Europeans brought devastating diseases, such as smallpox, with them

Since the Aborigines had no immunity to these “new” diseases, large numbers died

Conquest of the indigenous peoples became easier because of the weakened, smaller population

Summary:

Many Aborigines were forced off their land, and some were killed

Surviving Aborigines were discriminated against and had few rights

Aborigines who did fight stood little chance of winning due to the advanced weapons, such as guns, used by the British

Summary:

European colonization impacted Australia's language because even today the majority of Australians speak English

European colonization impacted Australia's religion because a large majority of Australians practice some form of Christianity like the Europeans

The Stolen Generation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wikX7V3nXDE&t=4s>

The Stolen Generation was a time between 1910-1970 where the Australian (English) government literally stole Aboriginal children off the street and forced them into group homes as a way to rid the children of their Aboriginal culture. Many children in the homes were malnourished and lacked the basic things they needed to survive. There were also many reports of physical abuse happening in the homes. Many children were never allowed to see their parents again.

Watched the video and want to know more? Read here:

<https://australianstogether.org.au/discover/australian-history/stolen-generations>

If you are interested in the Stolen Generation...

There is a movie called The Rabbit Proof Fence that documents the story of three girls who are escaping the home that they have been taken to. It is a heart wrenching movie that highlights the terrible conditions that Aboriginal children were forced to live in.

It is not a requirement to watch the movie, but if you are so inclined, you can find it on amazon, youtube, and other streaming services for 3.99.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.7ca9f7b9-6179-f672-ae76-386f6606e472?autoplay=1>